

# THE READER

## A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 31, Vol. II.

Saturday, August 1, 1863.

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AUGUST, 1863.**

SECRETARIES' OFFICES, LITERARY AND  
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,

Westgate Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, July, 1863.

The Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for this year, will be held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and will commence on WEDNESDAY, the 20th of August next, under the Presidency of Sir WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, C.B., &c. On this occasion it is expected that many of the Corresponding Members of the Association (to all of whom invitations have been sent) and a large number of British Members will be present.

Invitations have been accepted to visit the Lead Mines of W. B. Beaumont, Esq., as well as the Cleveland Iron Districts, at the request of the Corporation of Middlesbrough. The Mayors of Sunderland and South Shields have kindly expressed a desire to receive, and assist in promoting the views of such Members as may visit their respective Boroughs.

Excursions have been arranged to the Northumberland Lakes—the Cumbria Confield—and the necessary means taken to secure ready access to all the leading Mining and Manufacturing Establishments of the district, embracing, in addition to Mines of Coal, Iron, and Lead, very extensive works for the production of Chemicals, Machinery, Glass, Iron Vessels, Fire Clay, &c. The time appointed for the Meeting is thought to be convenient for Members of the Foreign and British Universities, and the facilities for travelling to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, especially from the Continent of Europe, are now very complete.

Both the General and Local Officers will exert themselves to make the visit of their Associates both agreeable and satisfactory, and it is expected that the gathering at Newcastle-upon-Tyne will be great in numbers, and of unusual interest.

Communications intended for presentation to any of the Sections may be addressed to the Local Secretaries, and should be accompanied by a statement whether the author will be present, and on what day of the Meeting, so that the business of the sections may be properly arranged.

As the objects of the Association are especially Scientific, papers on History, Biography, Literature, Art, &c., are necessarily inadmissible.

Gentlemen may be proposed as Life Members on payment of £10. Subscriptions for New Members, £2 for the first year. Subscriptions for Old Members, £1. Payments of Associates of the Meeting, £1. Ladies' Tickets (obtained through a Member), £1.

Names of Candidates for admission are to be sent to the Local Secretaries.

For any further information respecting the local arrangements, lodgings, or other matters, application may be made to the Local Secretaries, and tickets will be issued to the Members on application, to enable them to travel to and from the Meeting for one fare over the chief railways.

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## THE READER.

SATURDAY, 1 AUGUST, 1863.

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### PHILOSOPHY OF THE AMERICAN WAR.

UNDER the epigrammatic title of "The American Iliad in a Nutshell," there appears in *Macmillan's Magazine* for this month a little article by Mr. Carlyle. It is about the smallest magazine-article ever published. Here is the whole of it:—

ILIAS (Americana) IN NUCE.

PETER of the North (to PAUL of the South).—"Paul, you unaccountable scoundrel, I find you hire your servants for life, not by the month or year as I do! You are going straight to Hell, you—!"

PAUL.—"Good words, Peter! The risk is my own; I am willing to take the risk. Hire you your servants by the month or the day, and get straight to Heaven; leave me to my own method."

PETER.—"No, I won't. I will beat your brains out first!" (And is trying dreadfully ever since, but cannot yet manage it.)

May, 1863.

T. C.

Mr. Carlyle's philosophy of the American war, thus briefly expressed, is, it will be seen, not quite the usual one. It has come, indeed, to be pretty generally understood and admitted now that the question which is at the heart of the struggle between the North and the South is the question of slavery. Mr. Carlyle, like others, seizes this as the heart of the struggle. But, as all know, Mr. Carlyle's notions on the subject of slavery have long been different from those which most people in Europe have held, or have dared, unless very recently, to profess. With him American slavery, instead of being that monstrous plague-spot on the earth towards the wiping out of which all humanity should strive, is an exhibition—not by any means the best possible, and with much that is really bad and detestable mixed up

with it, but still valuable and interesting—of a system of social relations to some form or other of which, in spite of the present possession of all men's minds with the ideas of liberty and democracy, the whole world must be brought back, if it will not end in wreck and dissolution. He has no affection, we believe, for the name "Slavery," although, with that aggressiveness which leads him to shock people rather than to reason them into what he thinks right, he is at no pains to extricate his real views from the evil associations that have gathered round that name. He has no special affection for American slavery, and, though no admirer of the negroes, and perhaps thinking on the whole that even their bondage in America is a promotion for them, has denounced certain peculiarities of their treatment—the refusal to the whole mass of them, for example, of all save a low kind of brute training, and the obstacles thrown in the way of the self-emancipation of those who might wish to work it out—as cruel and unjust. But he sees in the slavery of America a more organized example than exists anywhere else of a type of social arrangements in which he finds real value and strength for good, and which may be reproduced, he thinks, under all sorts of modifications, and whether under the name "Slavery" or not, not only in communities presenting the peculiar American condition of a mixture of races, but also in other communities. White slavery, he has proclaimed over and over again, really exists among ourselves and in other countries of Europe—only, by not calling it slavery, we lose that sense of our duty to see to its organization which we should perhaps feel if we kept the ugly name; and we allow it, under the empty dignity of liberty, to become more and more ignominious and horrible. It is all this—long known to have been in his mind, and expounded at large years ago in *Fraser*—that he brings out now, in the form of an epigram for the hour, in his little article in *Macmillan*. He does not use the word "Slavery," it will be seen. He does not speak of Negroes. He treats the rupture between Peter and Paul, between the North and the South, as a case of radical difference between two neighbours as to the system on which they will hire their servants. Northern Peter will hire his servants on a system of short notice—by the year or the month; Southern Paul will hire his servants on a system of permanent relations—for all their lives. Thereon the two fall out, and go to war. This is the American Iliad in a nutshell.

At once, of course, it will be objected by all that Mr. Carlyle's terms are fallacious. There is no analogy, it will be said, between the hiring of a servant for life, the voluntary bargain of two free persons, binding them to each other during their whole lives on certain mutual conditions, and the barbarous, unconditional relationship that exists between master and slave. But, equally of course, it may be assumed that Mr. Carlyle has had this objection in his own mind, and has got over it so far as still to be persuaded that his version of the American struggle is substantially accurate. Probably, by not discussing the objection or seeming to notice it, and by avoiding all that is specially American in his statement of the problem at issue, he wishes to present the problem in its most general form. He wishes, through the American war, to call attention, as against the democratic theories of these days, to that doctrine of "permanent relations" between man and man the importance of which he has so often already preached before; and, finding "permanent relations" in the Southern States, he does not trouble himself about their origin, but considers the phrase "hiring for life" a lawful equivalent, for all rough purposes, for what other men call slavery. In short, Mr. Carlyle speaks again in his character as the champion of Authority, rather than of Liberty, as the true principle of human society.

It is very curious to find Mr. Carlyle's philosophy of the American war corresponding

so exactly as it does with some expositions on the subject which have come from the Southern States themselves. One of the most extraordinary, daring, and thorough-going of these expositions that we have seen is a paper or essay, entitled "The Philosophy of Secession," reprinted as an appendix to Professor Cairnes's masterly work, "*The Slave Power*." The author of the essay is the Hon. L. W. Spratt, the editor of the *Charleston Mercury*, and one of the most influential politicians of the Southern States; and its purpose was to protest against a decision of the Southern Congress in February, 1861, that the constitution of the new confederacy should prohibit the slave-trade, except within itself. Mr. Spratt, thinking this decision a weakness, and seeing, moreover, various symptoms of vacillation on the subject of slavery among his fellow-countrymen, comes forward to reason them out of this weakness and vacillation, and to expound to them that their society is built on slavery, that this is its greatness, and that they must avow and glory in this, and accept all the consequences. According to Professor Cairnes, Mr. Spratt's essay produced a profound impression on the South, and so rallied all men that the echoes of his sentiments were heard everywhere. The following passage from his essay contains, under somewhat different forms of expression, a view of the American war which is substantially the same as Mr. Carlyle's:—

The South is now in the formation of a Slave Republic. This, perhaps, is not admitted generally. There are many contented to believe that the South as a geographical section is in mere assertion of its independence; that it is instinct with no especial truth—pregnant of no distinct social nature; that for some unaccountable reason the two sections have become opposed to each other; that for reasons equally insufficient there is disagreement between the peoples that direct them; and that, from no overruling necessity, no impossibility of co-existence, but as mere matter of policy, it has been considered best for the South to strike out for herself and establish an independence of her own. This, I fear, is an inadequate conception of the controversy. The contest is not between the North and South as geographical sections, for between such sections merely there can be no contest; nor between the people of the North and the people of the South, for our relations have been pleasant, and on neutral grounds there is still nothing to estrange us. We eat together, trade together, and practise yet, in intercourse, with great respect, the courtesies of common life. But the real contest is between the two forms of society which have become established, the one at the North, and the other at the South. Society is essentially different from government—as different as is the nut from the bur, or the nervous body of the shell-fish from the bony structure which surrounds it; and within this government two societies had become developed as variant in structure and distinct in form as any two beings in animated nature. The one is a society composed of one race, the other of two races. The one is bound together but by the two great social relations of husband and wife and parent and child; the other by the three relations of husband and wife, and parent and child, and master and slave. The one embodies in its political structure the principle that equality is the right of man; the other that it is the right of equals only. The one embodying the principle that equality is the right of man, expands upon the horizontal plane of pure democracy; the other embodying the principle that it is not the right of man, but of equals only, has taken to itself the rounded form of a social aristocracy. In the one there is hireling labour, in the other slave labour; in the one, therefore, in theory at least, labour is voluntary, in the other involuntary; in the labour of the one there is the elective franchise, in the other there is not; and, as labour is always in excess of direction, in the one the power of government is only with the lower classes; in the other the upper. In the one, therefore, the reins of government come from the heels, in the other from the head of the society; in the one it is guided by the worst, in the other by the best, intelligence; in the one it is from those who have the least, in the other from those who have the greatest, stake in the continuance of existing order. In the one the pauper labourer has the power to rise and appropriate by law the goods protected by the State—

CURRENT LITERATURE.

SCHOOL-BOOKS AND TEXT-BOOKS.

ARTICLE I:

INTRODUCTORY; AND ABOUT ELEMENTARY ENGLISH SCHOOL-BOOKS.

*Elementary Lessons, in Fourteen Sheets: First Book of Reading: Second Book of Reading: Simple Lessons in Reading: Rudiments of Knowledge: Lesson-Book of Common Things and Ordinary Conduct: The Moral Class-Book: Principles of Elocution, with a Selection of Pieces;* By William Graham, LL.D.: *Exemplary and Instructive Biography.* (W. and R. Chambers, London and Edinburgh: being portions of their "Educational Course.")

*A New Picture-Alphabet, The Pretty A. B. C., The Historical A. B. C., The Alphabet of Beasts, and other Illustrated Alphabets: Illustrated Modern Spelling and Reading-Book: A Poetical History of England: Every Child's History of England, Every Child's Scripture-History, Every Child's History of Greece, Every Child's History of Rome, Every Child's History of France, &c.: Men of Deeds and Daring, a Book for Boys: Miss Corner's Historical Library, in a Series of Volumes; &c., &c.* (Dean and Son.)

*Mavor's Illustrated Primer; or, Progressive Lessons in Reading and Spelling.* (Routledge.)

*Harry Hawkins's H-Book: showing How He learned to Aspirate His H's.* (Griffith and Farran.)

*Butler's Gradations in Reading and Spelling, Fifty-first Edition: Butler's Etymological Spelling-Book, Two Hundred and Fifty-third Edition.* (Simpkin & Co., Longman & Co., Whitaker & Co., &c.)

*My First School-Book, to Teach Me Reading and Writing;* By Walter McLeod: *My Second School-Book, to Teach Me Reading and Spelling;* By Walter McLeod: *Simple Truths from Scripture, in Easy Lessons: Sacred History, History of England, History of France, History of Greece, History of Rome, &c., &c.; Book of Biography.* (Longman & Co.: being portions of "The School Series," edited by the Rev. G. R. Gleig, M.A., Chaplain-General to H.M. Forces.)

*School-Days of Eminent Men.* By John Timbs, F.S.A., Author of "Things not Generally Known," &c. Second Edition. (Lockwood & Co.)

*The Grade Lesson-Books in Six Standards, especially adapted to meet the Requirements of the Revised Code.* By E. T. Stevens, Associate of King's College, London, and Charles Hole, Headmaster of the Loughborough Collegiate School, Brixton. *Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar," "Henry the Eighth," and "Merchant of Venice;" Milton's "Paradise Lost" (Books 1 and 2), and Johnson's "Rasselas," with Introductory Remarks, Notes, &c., by the Rev. John Hunter, M.A., Adapted for Schools, &c.* (Longman & Co.)

*The Advanced Prose and Poetical Reader;* By Alexander Winton Buchan, F.E.I.S., Teacher, Glasgow. *A Class-Book of English Prose, comprehending specimens of the most distinguished Prose Writers from Chaucer to the present time;* By the Rev. Robert Demaus, M.A., Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland. *A Class-Book of English Poetry, comprehending specimens of the most distinguished Poets from Chaucer to the Present Time;* By Daniel Scrymgeour, late one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools for Scotland. (Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.)

*Stories for Children from the History of England, Fifteenth Edition; Little Arthur's History of England,* By Lady Calcott: One Hundredth Thousand; *A Smaller History of Greece,* By William Smith, LL.D.: Eighth Thousand; *A Smaller History of Rome,* By William Smith, LL.D.: Eleventh Thousand; *A Smaller History of England,* Edited by William Smith, LL.D.: Seventh Thousand. (Murray.)

THERE was a time when everything, or almost everything, that was learnt in school by English boys and girls was learnt from certain authorized books. There was one A. B. C. book, or pretty nearly one, for the whole "infantry" of the country; one catechism; one reading-book; one Latin grammar. It was penal to teach Latin grammar except from the established textbook. Of course, there were variations and supplements; and, beyond the rudiments,

when pressure comes, as come it must, there will be the motive to exert it—and thus the ship of State turns bottom upwards. In the other there is no pauper labour with power of rising; the ship of State has the ballast of a disfranchised class: there is no possibility of political upheaval, therefore, and it is reasonably certain that, so steadied, it will sail erect and onward to an indefinitely distant period. Such are some of the more obvious differences in form and constitution between these two societies which had come into contact within the limits of the recent Union. Perhaps it is not the least remarkable, in this connection, that while the one, a shapeless, organless, mere mass of social elements in no definite relation to each other, is loved and eulogized, and stands the ideal of the age; the other, comely, and proportioned with labour and direction, mind and matter in just relation to each other, presenting analogy to the very highest developments in animated nature, is condemned and reprobated. Even we ourselves have hardly ventured to affirm it—while the cock crows, in fact, are ready to deny it.

Such are the two forms of society which had come to contest within the structure of the recent Union. And the contest for existence was inevitable. Neither could concur in the requisitions of the other; neither could expand within the forms of a single government without encroachment on the other. Like twin lobsters in a single shell, if such a thing were possible, the natural expansion of the one must be inconsistent with the existence of the other; or, like an eagle and a fish, joined by an indissoluble bond, which for no reason of its propriety could act together, where the eagle could not share the fluid suited to the fish and live, where the fish could not share the fluid suited to the bird and live, and where one must perish that the other may survive, unless the unnatural Union shall be severed—so these societies could not, if they would, concur. The principle that races are unequal, and that among unequals inequality is right, would have been destructive to the form of pure democracy at the North. The principle that all men are equal and equally right would have been destructive of slavery at the South. Each required the element suited to its social nature. Each must strive to make the government expressive of its social nature. The natural expansion of the one must become encroachment on the other, and so the contest was inevitable.

We have quoted this long passage because of its intrinsic importance as an exposition, by a leading Southerner, of the nature and aims of the Southern Confederacy, and also because it gives us an opportunity of referring again to that English work in which Mr. Spratt's essay is cited at full length. Whoever wants to see a philosophy of the American war directly antagonistic in its spirit and conclusions to that of Mr. Carlyle and the Confederate essayist, and reasoned out at large by a mind of the fit speculative grasp, ought to read and study Mr. Cairnes's work. It is the work on the subject. Mr. Cairnes would accept Mr. Carlyle's epitome of the American Iliad as correct in matter of fact. Indeed, one of the main objects of his book was to prove—against what was the current opinion among us when the first edition of it was published—that the struggle between the system of slavery and the system of free labour is the one central reality of the American War. But, while Mr. Carlyle's sympathies are, for peculiar reasons of his own, connected with his general speculative philosophy, visibly on the side of the South, Mr. Cairnes, for reasons of a contrary philosophy, espouses in the main the side of the North. It is really discreditable to journals like the *Times* and the *Saturday Review*, that, arguing in every number on the American question, they have, as if dreading the trouble that it might cost them to deal with the powerful argument of Mr. Cairnes's book, adopted the easier policy of simply ignoring the book's existence. All sorts of inferior pamphlets on the controversy have been spoken of; but Mr. Cairnes's work, though certified by so high an authority as Mr. John Stuart Mill as the one exhaustive work on the subject, has been passed over in silence.

schoolmasters and tutors might follow their own methods, and arrange the courses of reading they thought best. Still, over the whole country, the first steps of the young in book-knowledge were taken as it were simultaneously, and to the same tap of the drum and the same well-known words of command. They were thumbing the same lesson-books, repeating the same rules and sets of words, and almost at the same fixed hours throughout the week, in Yorkshire as in Hampshire, in Shropshire as in Lincolnshire, or (to take another kingdom, which had a set of ways of its own) in Forfarshire as in Ayrshire or round about Edinburgh. There are among us, doubtless, friends of routine and admirers of authority who regret that these old habits are gone and doubt whether we have much improved upon them. They may think that, if even now one Latin grammar could be singled out as indubitably the best, and if the use of that one grammar were made obligatory, and the further making of grammars for school-use forbidden, and all the activity that would have employed itself in nothing else than making such grammars compelled to expend itself in gradually perfecting the established one, then not only would the Latinity of the country not suffer, but the mental drill of its young ones would be more exact and regular everywhere at once, and there would be a vast saving of industry. All this, however, is past praying for. We are in the days of liberty and universal competition; and we have long had liberty and competition in school-books, as in everything else. In no kind of literature, indeed, is there such a struggle, such a scramble, such a boundless riot of competition, as in school-books. A successful school-book is such a hit for both its compiler and its publisher, such a permanent little Golconda, if prudently managed, that it is little wonder school-books should be multiplied, and every day should be adding to the already enormous crowd. If you write a great epic poem, the chances are that, should Paternoster Row deign to look at it, you would not, in the whole Row, be offered even that famously small sum for it which the bookseller Simmons gave Milton for his "Paradise Lost," and which, though a hypocritical posterity has been holding up its hands at it in astonishment and execration ever since, was really very handsome from Simmons, all things considered; but, if you write a tolerably good spelling-book, and it once takes, it will be as good to you as a little annuity. We know of one case in which a school-arithmetic is worth to its author, if you capitalize the present annual receipts from it, almost exactly the sum which George Eliot is said to have received for her "Romola." In this case, however, there is no real inequality of remuneration as compared with labour: for this school-arithmetic probably took as much time and trouble in the preparation as "Romola," while for its production there was required a previous amount of peculiar knowledge and of experience in teaching such as few save its author can have possessed. A really good school-book is not to be sneered at. It pre-supposes a rather rare combination of qualifications in its author; wherever it goes it is a public benefit; and high remuneration in money is the less to be grudged for it because it is accounted a work of drudgery and brings little of the fame which many prefer to money. And here the advocates of our modern principle of liberty and unlimited competition in everything may retort upon the admirers of authority, and their regrets of the by-gone days of single authorized reading-books, catechisms, and grammars for all the schools of the land. By our plan of competition, they may say, we get better school-books than our forefathers ever dreamt of; we make it worth while for men of superior talent to engage in this species of book-making; we get all the latest improvements in method, all the newest items of knowledge and "results of the latest researches," faster worked into our system of school-instruction for the young. The principle of "natural selection" comes into play;

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1 AUGUST, 1863.

and the good text-books, which are really adapted to the wants of the community, survive, and beget others more exquisite than themselves, while the rubbish goes where rubbish will suit, or dies a natural death.

Now, without denying that liberty and competition may be, on the whole, best in this as in other departments, or that at all events they are inevitable, practical men may at least note existing evils. They may point to facts. Is it not the fact that, tempted by the chances of the speculation, almost every publishing-house in Britain has projected or is issuing its series of school-books, and that countless streams of school-books are thus at present being disembogued into the market, there to struggle with each other and with those which are already so far in possession of the ground by custom or by public sanction? True, the names of some of these firms are guarantees that what they issue shall have been carefully considered and done by the most competent hands within reach! But can this be said of all? Is there no scamp-work in the manufacture of school-books—no hasty concluding that such and such an article will have a large sale, and getting it rapidly done anyhow, and puffing it into notoriety by advertisements? Or did you ever have any personal knowledge of the sort of men that do write school-books? Some of them are able and soundly-educated men, who have given thought to the subjects on which they write, and perhaps have been digesting them for teaching-purposes during half their lives; but others are great geese, for whose knowledge of the ways or the wants of young minds, or of any minds, you would not give a farthing, but who nevertheless have their educational crotchets. Or did you ever look into a tolerably large collection of school-books gathered at random? The principle of "natural selection" must be of very slow operation in the matter of school-books, if one may judge from the swarming abundance of inferior types that still seem to live and prosper in competition with the far fewer specimens that can be called superior.

It might be a considerable service to the present generation if some competent critic were to make a raid among the School-Books, singling out for praise and recommendation any of particular excellence, wherever they might be found, and however obscurely fathered, and mercilessly exposing a few of the worst, however respectably titled and set forth. We cannot as yet profess ourselves fit even to attempt this service—which would require, in the first place, a more complete collection of all the existing school-books of Britain than could be made in a hurry; but we propose, in the present and in some future numbers, to take a glance in succession at some of the leading classes of our school-books, offering such remarks as may be suggested by the inspection of samples from those newer lists of "educational works" which figure about this season in the circulars of our publishers. We hope to take up Classical school-books and Arithmetical and Mathematical school-books, and perhaps other classes in due time; but, for the present, we confine ourselves to English school-books, and among these to such as are more elementary. We reserve English grammars, English historical text-books, text-books of English literature, and other higher English manuals for schools and students.

The elementary English school-books with which we at present deal are those which are connected with the first business of all schools—the thorough teaching of the art of reading. It is not sufficiently recognised, we think, how, by the very necessities of the case, the thorough teaching of the art of reading in the vernacular is, and must always be, the foundation of all book-education in every country, and, as far as this kind of education is concerned, the most important work, if not all but the only work, that primary schools can hope, or need try, to accomplish. We are strong partisans of that rough theory of national education which insists that our primary schools should make

the three R's—reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic—their paramount business. We suppose, of course, a moral and industrial training simultaneously going on; but we are speaking of that book-education which is the more visible and audible part of the work that schools exist for. And, of the three R's, reading is the one which precedes and involves the others. The thorough ability to read in one's own vernacular tongue is the one grand distinction between the educated and the uneducated. Above this level, of course, there are degrees and differences, ascending from the man who can read only in his own tongue up to the all-accomplished scholar; but these degrees and differences are as nothing compared with the enormous gulf which separates those who can read thoroughly in their own tongue from those who cannot. The true Helots or serfs among us are those who cannot read; teach a person to read thoroughly, and you put him in possession of what, after all, is the most important franchise he can have in a civilized country—the franchise of books. For, by being able thoroughly to read, he is in possession of the instrument of all farther knowledge; and it is in his own power to go on or to stop short. By the mere exercise of the instrument which he has once been put in possession of, he may go on to any degree of accomplishment, in any direction, that he cares to reach. What is all the best part of our "higher education," even in our great Universities, but continued reading—in the vernacular, or out of it; and what is the power of reading out of the vernacular but a special prolongation of the power of reading in it? Is not the very phrase at the Universities which describes their work significant of this? They speak of "reading" mathematics, of "reading" philosophy, of "reading" political economy, as well as of "reading" the classics. In short, the more the thing is thought of, or the more one looks about in society to see who are the best educated men and the most eminent intellectually, and by what process they have become so, the more clear it will seem how much of the total distinction between the "educated" and the "uneducated" may be resolved into the simple possession or non-possession from an early period of life of the faculty of thorough reading in the vernacular. There has been much nonsensical admiration of Burns and Hugh Miller as "uneducated" men—the fact being that, even in a scholastic sense, they were just as well educated as many of our London editors, artists, and literary men, who move in the best society, and whose education, like theirs, if you analyse it, has consisted mainly in their having been thoroughly taught the mechanical process of reading English, and in their having used that faculty somewhat perseveringly.

"Thoroughly" taught to read, we have been careful to say all along—for here lies the all-important matter. The number of people in Great Britain who have been "thoroughly" taught to read is far smaller than is indicated in the statistical returns from which we derive our notions on this subject. There are many young ladies among us, upon whose education hundreds of pounds have been spent, who cannot, in any effective sense, be said to have been taught to read, seeing that the process of reading has never ceased to be one of real mechanical difficulty for them—of strain, fatigue, and slow and imperfect apprehension of the printed characters before them. Hence books are as nothing in their lives; their reading is confined to the births, deaths, and marriages in the newspapers, or to some novel whose linked sweetness lasts them a month by being long drawn out. In very much the same predicament as regards the power of reading are many of the other sex in the same rank of life. And, when we descend among "the masses," and think of the kind of woful spelling out of easy bits of print, which is the sole outfit by way of the so-called art of reading that thousands upon thousands carry with them from their abortive "school-time" into their

grown-up lives, it will not appear that, in making the faculty of perfect reading count far too much, we divide society at too low a level. Then only can reading and writing be said to have been thoroughly taught when they have ceased to be processes of mechanical exertion, and become a second nature. It would be a great simplification, we think, of the whole problem of national education, if it could once for all be assumed that the main function of what are called primary schools, in the way of book-education, is effectively to bring the whole population up to this standard—to secure that all the boys and girls of the community are thoroughly taught the three R's. This would leave quite enough to be done by the primary schools, while it would relieve them from a vast and perplexing multitude of irrelevancies. The apparatus necessary in these schools, apart from the skill and zeal of the teacher, would then mainly be an apparatus for the thorough teaching of reading and writing. If the State could bring all the children born within its bounds up to the point of thorough ability to read and write, it would, so far as book-education is concerned, have done its duty by them. At least the *means* of farther education has then been conferred, and all beyond might be left to the individual.

We do not know that, as regards the first part of the apparatus for teaching boys and girls to read and write, there has been, or could very well have been, even in these days of educational bustle and endless artifices for education, any essential improvement upon the time-honoured A B C books, syllable-books, spelling-books, slates, pencils, &c., of the old days of pedagogy. After all, a child must begin by learning its letters, and the first mysteries of such combinations of them as BA, BE, BI, BO, and CAT; and Nature, when she arranged those laws of mental association, upon which we are told that everything that passes in the mind depends, decided that this could not be done without a certain amount of trouble to the child, a certain working of its little brain by incessant repetitions of sights and sounds together. One teacher may acquire better habits of using the apparatus than another, and may bring the little souls on more easily, especially by getting them over their first great little difficulty of perceiving the *sound-values* of the letters in words as distinct from their *names* in the Alphabet; but the apparatus itself cannot be greatly varied. Picture-alphabets, so much in vogue, are, we fancy, but of very little value in the main point. A picture of an Apple or an Ass along with the letter A, of a Ball or a Boat along with the letter B, and so on, may be of use in fastening the association between letter and sound; but we would not go much farther. What many of our illustrated Alphabets do is to amuse the child by the way, to fill his little head with images and fancies while he is learning his letters, to make him learn them in a bower of arabesques, and not in the least to further his learning them. All the philanthropy on earth cannot save him, and ought not to save him if it could, the little fatigue of the real part of the process. Good sheets of clear black letters, or well-printed little lesson-books, without wood-cuts, or with very few, are the best. The slate or the black-board must do the rest. The use that may be made of the black-board, from the infant school to the college class-room, is, perhaps, the greatest educational discovery of modern times. Then there is the Spelling-Book. We take the liberty of thinking, against some authorities, that this ancient institution cannot be safely superseded—that, though you may teach spelling without it, by making the reading-book furnish the words to be spelt, yet the formal spelling-book, with its arranged columns of words of progressive difficulty, has much to say for itself. Our ancestors were not fools; they had come upon their methods by long trial. There were great pedagogues before the days of the Educational Code. Repetition and effort are Nature's rules in all discipline; and, perhaps,

CURRENT LITERATURE.

SCHOOL-BOOKS AND TEXT-BOOKS.

ARTICLE I:

INTRODUCTORY; AND ABOUT ELEMENTARY ENGLISH SCHOOL-BOOKS.

when pressure comes, as come it must, there will be the motive to exert it—and thus the ship of State turns bottom upwards. In the other there is no pauper labour with power of rising; the ship of State has the ballast of a disfranchised class: there is no possibility of political upheaval, therefore, and it is reasonably certain that, so steadied, it will sail erect and onward to an indefinitely distant period. Such are some of the more obvious differences in form and constitution between these two societies which had come into contact within the limits of the recent Union. Perhaps it is not the least remarkable, in this connection, that while the one, a shapeless, organless, mere mass of social elements in no definite relation to each other, is loved and eulogized, and stands the ideal of the age; the other, comely, and proportioned with labour and direction, mind and matter in just relation to each other, presenting analogy to the very highest developments in animated nature, is condemned and reprobated. Even we ourselves have hardly ventured to affirm it—while the cock crows, in fact, are ready to deny it.

Such are the two forms of society which had come to contest within the structure of the recent Union. And the contest for existence was inevitable. Neither could concur in the requisitions of the other; neither could expand within the forms of a single government without encroachment on the other. Like twin lobsters in a single shell, if such a thing were possible, the natural expansion of the one must be inconsistent with the existence of the other; or, like an eagle and a fish, joined by an indissoluble bond, which for no reason of its propriety could act together, where the eagle could not share the fluid suited to the fish and live, where the fish could not share the fluid suited to the bird and live, and where one must perish that the other may survive, unless the unnatural Union shall be severed—so these societies could not, if they would, concur. The principle that races are unequal, and that among unequals inequality is right, would have been destructive to the form of pure democracy at the North. The principle that all men are equal and equally right would have been destructive of slavery at the South. Each required the element suited to its social nature. Each must strive to make the government expressive of its social nature. The natural expansion of the one must become encroachment on the other, and so the contest was inevitable.

We have quoted this long passage because of its intrinsic importance as an exposition, by a leading Southerner, of the nature and aims of the Southern Confederacy, and also because it gives us an opportunity of referring again to that English work in which Mr. Spratt's essay is cited at full length. Whoever wants to see a philosophy of the American war directly antagonistic in its spirit and conclusions to that of Mr. Carlyle and the Confederate essayist, and reasoned out at large by a mind of the fit speculative grasp, ought to read and study Mr. Cairnes's work. It is the work on the subject. Mr. Cairnes would accept Mr. Carlyle's epitome of the American Iliad as correct in matter of fact. Indeed, one of the main objects of his book was to prove—against what was the current opinion among us when the first edition of it was published—that the struggle between the system of slavery and the system of free labour is the one central reality of the American War. But, while Mr. Carlyle's sympathies are, for peculiar reasons of his own, connected with his general speculative philosophy, visibly on the side of the South, Mr. Cairnes, for reasons of a contrary philosophy, espouses in the main the side of the North. It is really discreditable to journals like the *Times* and the *Saturday Review*, that, arguing in every number on the American question, they have, as if dreading the trouble that it might cost them to deal with the powerful argument of Mr. Cairnes's book, adopted the easier policy of simply ignoring the book's existence. All sorts of inferior pamphlets on the controversy have been spoken of; but Mr. Cairnes's work, though certified by so high an authority as Mr. John Stuart Mill as the one exhaustive work on the subject, has been passed over in silence.

*Elementary Lessons, in Fourteen Sheets: First Book of Reading: Second Book of Reading: Simple Lessons in Reading: Rudiments of Knowledge: Lesson-Book of Common Things and Ordinary Conduct: The Moral Class-Book: Principles of Elocution, with a Selection of Pieces;* By William Graham, LL.D.: *Exemplary and Instructive Biography.* (W. and R. Chambers, London and Edinburgh: being portions of their "Educational Course.")

*A New Picture-Alphabet, The Pretty A. B. C., The Historical A. B. C., The Alphabet of Beasts, and other Illustrated Alphabets: Illustrated Modern Spelling and Reading-Book: A Poetical History of England: Every Child's History of England, Every Child's Scripture-History, Every Child's History of Greece, Every Child's History of Rome, Every Child's History of France, &c.: Men of Deeds and Daring, a Book for Boys: Miss Corner's Historical Library, in a Series of Volumes; &c., &c.* (Dean and Son.)

*Macor's Illustrated Primer; or, Progressive Lessons in Reading and Spelling.* (Routledge.)

*Harry Hawkins's H-Book: showing How He learned to Aspirate His H's.* (Griffith and Farran.)

*Butler's Gradations in Reading and Spelling, Fifty-first Edition: Butler's Etymological Spelling-Book, Two Hundred and Fifty-third Edition.* (Simpkin & Co., Longman & Co., Whitaker & Co., &c.)

*My First School-Book, to Teach Me Reading and Writing; By Walter McLeod: My Second School-Book, to Teach Me Reading and Spelling; By Walter McLeod: Simple Truths from Scripture, in Easy Lessons: Sacred History, History of England, History of France, History of Greece, History of Rome, &c., &c.: Book of Biography.* (Longman & Co.: being portions of "The School Series," edited by the Rev. G. R. Gleig, M.A., Chaplain-General to H.M. Forces.)

*School-Days of Eminent Men.* By John Timbs, F.S.A., Author of "Things not Generally Known," &c. Second Edition. (Lockwood & Co.)

*The Grade Lesson-Books in Six Standards, especially adapted to meet the Requirements of the Revised Code.* By E. T. Stevens, Associate of King's College, London, and Charles Hole, Headmaster of the Loughborough Collegiate School, Brixton. *Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," "Henry the Eighth," and "Merchant of Venice," Milton's "Paradise Lost" (Books 1 and 2), and Johnson's "Rasselas," with Introductory Remarks, Notes, &c.,* by the Rev. John Hunter, M.A., Adapted for Schools, &c. (Longman & Co.)

*The Advanced Prose and Poetical Reader; By Alexander Winton Buchan, F.E.I.S., Teacher, Glasgow. A Class-Book of English Prose, comprehending specimens of the most distinguished Prose Writers from Chaucer to the present time; By the Rev. Robert Demaus, M.A., Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland. A Class-Book of English Poetry, comprehending specimens of the most distinguished Poets from Chaucer to the Present Time; By Daniel Scrymgeour, late one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools for Scotland.* (Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.)

*Stories for Children from the History of England, Fifteenth Edition; Little Arthur's History of England, By Lady Calcott: One Hundredth Thousand; A Smaller History of Greece, By William Smith, LL.D.: Eighth Thousand; A Smaller History of Rome, By William Smith, LL.D.: Eleventh Thousand; A Smaller History of England, Edited by William Smith, LL.D.: Seventh Thousand.* (Murray.)

THERE was a time when everything, or almost everything, that was learnt in school by English boys and girls was learnt from certain authorized books. There was one A. B. C. book, or pretty nearly one, for the whole "infantry" of the country; one catechism; one reading-book; one Latin grammar. It was penal to teach Latin grammar except from the established text-book. Of course, there were variations and supplements; and, beyond the rudiments,

schoolmasters and tutors might follow their own methods, and arrange the courses of reading they thought best. Still, over the whole country, the first steps of the young in book-knowledge were taken as it were simultaneously, and to the same tap of the drum and the same well-known words of command. They were thumbing the same lesson-books, repeating the same rules and sets of words, and almost at the same fixed hours throughout the week, in Yorkshire as in Hampshire, in Shropshire as in Lincolnshire, or (to take another kingdom, which had a set of ways of its own) in Forfarshire as in Ayrshire or round about Edinburgh. There are among us, doubtless, friends of routine and admirers of authority who regret that these old habits are gone and doubt whether we have much improved upon them. They may think that, if even now one Latin grammar could be singled out as indubitably the best, and if the use of that one grammar were made obligatory, and the further making of grammars for school-use forbidden, and all the activity that would have employed itself in nothing else than making such grammars compelled to expend itself in gradually perfecting the established one, then not only would the Latinity of the country not suffer, but the mental drill of its young ones would be more exact and regular everywhere at once, and there would be a vast saving of industry. All this, however, is past praying for. We are in the days of liberty and universal competition; and we have long had liberty and competition in school-books, as in everything else. In no kind of literature, indeed, is there such a struggle, such a scramble, such a boundless riot of competition, as in school-books. A successful school-book is such a hit for both its compiler and its publisher, such a permanent little Golconda, if prudently managed, that it is little wonder school-books should be multiplied, and every day should be adding to the already enormous crowd. If you write a great epic poem, the chances are that, should Paternoster Row deign to look at it, you would not, in the whole Row, be offered even that famously small sum for it which the bookseller Simmons gave Milton for his "Paradise Lost," and which, though a hypocritical posterity has been holding up its hands at it in astonishment and execration ever since, was really very handsome from Simmons, all things considered; but, if you write a tolerably good spelling-book, and it once takes, it will be as good to you as a little annuity. We know of one case in which a school-arithmetic is worth to its author, if you capitalize the present annual receipts from it, almost exactly the sum which George Eliot is said to have received for her "Romola." In this case, however, there is no real inequality of remuneration as compared with labour: for this school-arithmetic probably took as much time and trouble in the preparation as "Romola," while for its production there was required a previous amount of peculiar knowledge and of experience in teaching such as few save its author can have possessed. A really good school-book is not to be sneered at. It pre-supposes a rather rare combination of qualifications in its author; wherever it goes it is a public benefit; and high remuneration in money is the less to be grudged for it because it is accounted a work of drudgery and brings little of the fame which many prefer to money. And here the advocates of our modern principle of liberty and unlimited competition in everything may retort upon the admirers of authority, and their regrets of the by-gone days of single authorized reading-books, catechisms, and grammars for all the schools of the land. By our plan of competition, they may say, we get better school-books than our forefathers ever dreamt of; we make it worth while for men of superior talent to engage in this species of book-making; we get all the latest improvements in method, all the newest items of knowledge and "results of the latest researches," faster worked into our system of school-instruction for the young. The principle of "natural selection" comes into play;

# THE READER.

1 AUGUST, 1863.

and the good text-books, which are really adapted to the wants of the community, survive, and beget others more exquisite than themselves, while the rubbish goes where rubbish will suit, or dies a natural death.

Now, without denying that liberty and competition may be, on the whole, best in this as in other departments, or that at all events they are inevitable, practical men may at least note existing evils. They may point to facts. Is it not the fact that, tempted by the chances of the speculation, almost every publishing-house in Britain has projected or is issuing its series of school-books, and that countless streams of school-books are thus at present being disembogued into the market, there to struggle with each other and with those which are already so far in possession of the ground by custom or by public sanction? True, the names of some of these firms are guarantees that what they issue shall have been carefully considered and done by the most competent hands within reach! But can this be said of all? Is there no scamp-work in the manufacture of school-books—no hasty concluding that such and such an article will have a large sale, and getting it rapidly done anyhow, and puffing it into notoriety by advertisements? Or did you ever have any personal knowledge of the sort of men that do write school-books? Some of them are able and soundly-educated men, who have given thought to the subjects on which they write, and perhaps have been digesting them for teaching-purposes during half their lives; but others are great geese, for whose knowledge of the ways or the wants of young minds, or of any minds, you would not give a farthing, but who nevertheless have their educational crotchets. Or did you ever look into a tolerably large collection of school-books gathered at random? The principle of "natural selection" must be of very slow operation in the matter of school-books, if one may judge from the swarming abundance of inferior types that still seem to live and prosper in competition with the far fewer specimens that can be called superior.

It might be a considerable service to the present generation if some competent critic were to make a raid among the School-Books, singling out for praise and recommendation any of particular excellence, wherever they might be found, and however obscurely fathered, and mercilessly exposing a few of the worst, however respectably titled and set forth. We cannot as yet profess ourselves fit even to attempt this service—which would require, in the first place, a more complete collection of all the existing school-books of Britain than could be made in a hurry; but we propose, in the present and in some future numbers, to take a glance in succession at some of the leading classes of our school-books, offering such remarks as may be suggested by the inspection of samples from those newer lists of "educational works" which figure about this season in the circulars of our publishers. We hope to take up Classical school-books and Arithmetical and Mathematical school-books, and perhaps other classes in due time; but, for the present, we confine ourselves to English school-books, and among these to such as are more elementary. We reserve English grammars, English historical text-books, text-books of English literature, and other higher English manuals for schools and students.

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in our desire to save our young ones from the fatigue of exercises that seem dry and formal, we are doing them small good in the long run.

When we rise to Reading-Books, there is far more room for choice, for variety of better and worse. We can conceive a series of English reading-books for schools, which should take up the child when just able to spell out and pronounce words of one syllable, and carry him on gradually to that stage of thorough mastery of the art of reading at which he might be dismissed from school with the rest in his own power—we can conceive such a series so well-considered, and so superior to all others, that its universal use might be desirable. As it is, there are hosts of reading-books, of very different degrees of excellence, competing with each other. The old familiar reading-books have gone out and new ones have come in. The difficulty here arises from the fact that, although the teaching of the art of reading may be the main business of primary schools so far as book-education is concerned, yet this art can only be taught by exercising it on some kind or kinds of *matter*. The question how reading is to be taught cannot be separated from the question *what* is to be read; and notions may differ very much both as to what kind of matter may be most useful in itself, and what may be fittest to cultivate and perfect the habit of reading. The difference between former English reading-books and those now in popular favour seems to consist chiefly in the much larger proportion of the element of useful information which the latter introduce in their lessons. "Here," it is virtually said, "are these boys and girls, reading their little bits of print every day; whether they may ever read much in their after lives is doubtful; is it not well, therefore, that as much of useful information and doctrine as possible should be administered to them at present through the medium of these bits of print which they *must* read—information and doctrine respecting common things, some rudiments of natural science, some knowledge of physiology, political economy, geography, and the history of the land they live in?" On this principle many of our reading-books for schools have become composts of miscellaneous information, collections of little scraps and tit-bits of knowledge. We rather doubt the propriety of this policy, carried to the extent to which it has been in some quarters. Again and again we would hoist the principle that to teach boys and girls thoroughly to read, so that reading should become a habit and a taste with them, and they should effectively possess the *instrument* of knowledge, ought to be, as far as book-education is concerned, the main business of our primary schools. We would subordinate all the book-training of these schools to this aim. But, as we have never said that book-training ought to be the sole business of these schools—as we consider that, at such schools, there may be and ought to be, along with the book-training, a training in various good habits, extending, perhaps, to such an industrial drill as cannot be had at home, and certainly to a military drill for boys—so, even as respects book-training, we would by no means so maintain our principle that thorough teaching of the three R's is the main thing desirable, as to be in conflict with the sound opinion that schools may be managed in such a manner that boys and girls may there acquire a compendium of information on various subjects that can hardly be so well acquired otherwise, and that may be useful to them all their lives. In the first place, we suppose always a competent teacher delving the minds of the pupils as they read, "cultivating their intelligence," questioning them up and down upon their lessons, and largely adding to the direct results of the lessons by his talk. In the second place, we suppose—what is always the fact—a large amount of reading of all kinds and sundry transacted by the children on their own account and for their own amusement out of school from the moment they can read at all. The extent to which this goes on is one test of the efficiency

of the school for its main purpose; where it goes on at all, the school is both assisted in the main purpose and set free for a more special selection as regards the nature of the readings which it shall reserve for itself; and, though the voluntary readings of the children out of school will be chiefly of fairytales and stories, where such are accessible, they cannot but include much that is miscellaneous informing, and they may, by easy arrangement, be made to include more of this kind. But, in the third place, we do not forget that the thorough teaching of the art of reading involves in itself the necessity of the early and systematic practice of the art, by the young in schools, on a considerable variety of subjects. Where the intelligence is left dormant, uninterested and uninquisitive about the various matters of real knowledge to be found in books, there the thorough art of reading cannot be said to have been acquired. The thorough possession of the instrument of knowledge involves a certain amount of actual practice with that instrument upon printed matter of a considerable variety of kinds. A cabman, sitting on his box, while waiting for a fare, and reading with relish the police-reports in a penny newspaper, but whose faculty of reading rebounds from all higher literature, in utter ignorance of what it is all about, is not the type of reading-ability up to which, we think, all our boys and girls might be educated even in our primary schools. The habit and the taste for reading might be worked up in these schools to a higher general standard than that; and this would require the practice of the habit, even in school, on a range of matters wider than children would select for themselves. Hence, in reading-books for schools, even for the thorough teaching of reading, there must be such an admixture of lessons of elementary information of various kinds—scraps and abridgements of natural science, passages of history, and so forth—as shall sufficiently represent what is to be found in books. What we doubt, however, is whether this principle of miscellaneous information has not been overdone of late in the composition of reading-books for schools, and whether there was not superior wisdom for the purpose in that older principle which selected for the lessons in such books a goodly proportion of passages of literary beauty, eloquence, ingenuity, humour, pathos, poetry, and power. Knowledge may be Power in Bacon's sense; but, for the young as for as the old, the readings of power are not those which convey knowledge, but those which rouse and stir the heart and the imagination. Certain we are, from our own recollection, that the most effective pieces for all higher purposes in the reading-books for schools of a former generation were not the pieces that told us how cheese was made, or how many the planets were and what were their distances from the sun, but pieces such as Mrs. Barbauld's "prose-hymns," or Miss Taylor's "Eyes and No Eyes," or Addison's "Vision of Mirza," or some vague anonymous narrative which spoke of the "cannons thundering on their way to Rome" and enraptured us by that grand combination of image and sound, or Mrs. Opie's "Orphan Boy," or Pope's "Dying Christian." This principle of the measureless power over children's minds of passages of beauty, or pathos, or humour, or sublimity ought not to be forgotten by those who compile reading-books in these days, when, perhaps, the literary taste of the grown-up themselves is better than it was in the days to which we refer, and when, besides, there is a generation of new British writers to quote from. We are glad to see that some compilers of school-books are aware of this, and that they include among their reading-lessons passages from our best recent poets and prose-writers, even to Tennyson, and Kingsley, and Ruskin.

We have been speaking in this article throughout of primary schools only, and of that education in the art of English reading, with its accompaniments, which we consider to be the main business of these schools as far as book-knowledge is concerned. But

there is, and must always be, a higher school-education, even in book-knowledge, than that which we have here taken into account. Although, when once in possession of the faculty of reading, a child may be said to have the essential outfit which places all farther book-education in his own power, we all of us recognise, and our long-established system of schools and colleges recognises, the supreme importance of not leaving the farther book-education of the young wholly to private perseverance, choice, and the haphazard of life, but detaining as many as can be detained for instruction, according to organized methods, and during a longer period, in certain branches of book-knowledge deemed essential to a "liberal" education. The school-books that appertain to this higher education in schools and colleges remain over, as we have said, for future consideration. But, still keeping to our present subject of primary schools, and the elementary English school-books filled for them, we may indicate what in our opinion might be the fit course of reading for the most advanced classes in these schools. This is the more necessary, because, while the English class-books that any school can possibly use are few in number, some publishing firms that have issued school-books have issued a very extensive series, including not only more graduated reading-books than any school could ever get through, but also many special reading-books in science, history, and what not—histories of Greece, histories of Rome, histories of France, histories of Italy, histories of Spain, and dozens of histories besides. The principle in this seems to have been partly to provide a miscellany of school-books from which school-masters might pick and choose, according to their varying tastes; partly that there might be in stock books which, though called school-books, might be used as elementary manuals by any persons whatsoever engaged in study. For the higher purposes of our primary English schools we conceive that three reading-books might be sufficient, following such simpler graduated reading-books of mixed literary extracts and lessons of miscellaneous information as we have described:—(1) *A Scientific Reading-book*. It might be a national benefit if the ablest scientific man among us, or a committee of our ablest scientific men, were to prepare an elementary compendium of scientific information, proceeding from Astronomy onwards through General Physics, Chemistry, and Vegetable and Animal Physiology, fit for common British schools. At present, so far as we know, there is no such general compendium of any real value or authority, but only scattered special treatises. (2) *A Historical Reading-book*. Of what earthly use in common schools, although of use as manuals for individual students, is a series of volumes of separate histories of all the nations of the world? What is wanted, and what, indeed, exists in more or less perfect form, if only two or three volumes were bound together, or, better still, condensed into one, is a reading-book that should give a comprehensive account of the general history of the world, sweeping on from the first vision of our globe, as inhabited by human beings, to our own time, and should then fasten on our own nation and (some idea of its relations to other modern nations and to prior times having been already given in the summary) relate the course of its history in more fond detail. Such a reading-book would not be, indeed, real history; and any compendium of the kind must be at best but a kind of dream or taste or suspicion of real history; but it would be very useful; and little more, in the way of history, can be judiciously attempted in primary schools, unless in the shape of special extracts from historical writers which might be included in the reading-book we are next to mention. (3) *A Literary Reading-book*, consisting of extracts from the best writers in prose and verse, selected on the principle of the highest fitness for stirring and nobly impressing the young. The contents of such a book would, of course, be very

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miscellaneous—historical or merely descriptive, expository or philosophical, oratorical or impassioned, imaginative or fantastic or poetical. And the order of such contents might be almost any order. They might be mixed; or the kinds might be separated, as is generally done as far as regards the distinction of prose from verse; or, finally, the arrangement might be according to the chronological order of the authors quoted from. We have, perhaps, no English reading-book, prepared on this last principle, comparable to Mr. Max Müller's Text-Book of Specimens of German Authors. The "Class-Book of English Prose," by Mr. Demaus, and the "Class-Book of English Poetry," by the late Mr. Scrymgeour, both published by Messrs. Black of Edinburgh, are perhaps the nearest approaches we have to English reading-books on the chronological principle. It is less as reading-books for schools, however, than as illustrated epitomes of English literary history that they are offered for higher students—in which character we may have to speak of them again in connexion with other text-books of the History of English Literature. On the whole, for the purposes of a mere literary reading-book, it might be necessary that the extracts in any such compendium on the chronological principle should be read backwards—those from Tennyson and Ruskin first, and so back to Chaucer and the archaic.

One word in conclusion. Perhaps by a natural reaction against the rote-system of former times, we are not now drilling the memory in our schools so much as we ought to do. It is a great mistake. Memory is no ignoble faculty of the mind; it is that on which all else depends. The noble old practice of committing splendid passages of verse to heart, and even rules and lists, ought not to be let die. Any man who would take the trouble to learn the whole play of "Hamlet" by heart would walk among us thenceforward, by that very fact, as a superior being who could draw on a secret mass of strength. And so what has been committed to heart at school is a fund of personal power through life.

## GOETHE'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH CARL AUGUST.

*Correspondence of Carl August, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, with Goethe, from 1775 to 1828. (Briefwechsel, &c.) Two Vols. (Weimar.)*

WE remember few instances of the production of a correspondence between persons of intellectual eminence where the result has not been, to a certain extent, the disappointment of expectation. Like children whose conceptions of royal decorum receive a rude shock from the discovery that the Queen's crown is occasionally off her head, and that she does not always carry her sceptre in her hand, we are apt to be disappointed if we do not find the monarchs of the world of intellect invariably *en grande tenue*. We forget, on the one hand, their liability to petty cares and prosaic necessities, while, on the other, we would pursue them into their intervals of recreation, and seem to demand as of right that their pens should never traverse paper without leaving some trace of wit or of wisdom. Such unreasonable expectations are once again rebuked by the eagerly-expected correspondence before us, which, though consisting of half-a-century's interchange of communication between the first literary genius of his day and one of the most enlightened of European princes, does not, we would almost venture to affirm, contain one memorable passage. Yet it is not on that account uninteresting. Though we would gladly have chronicled some conspicuous addition to that treasury of intellectual wealth for which the world is indebted to Goethe, it is no small matter to possess a picture of him as he appeared in the unreserve of private intercourse with a sovereign and friend. The collection possesses little value for one who is not already tolerably well read in Goethe's works

and who has not formed a more or less definite conception of his personality. Its great importance consists in the corrective afforded to such a conception by the accumulation of minor traits, insignificant if taken singly, but forming in their aggregate the evident if not very vivid outline of a character of great originality and power.

We hope to be able to return to this branch of the subject next week, and point out in what respects our estimate of Goethe's character has been confirmed or modified by this publication. We may then also be able to offer some account of the composition and general purport of the correspondence itself, and of the Grand Duke's share in it, which is much larger than Goethe's. At present we must be content with a few of the more characteristic extracts. The following little incident of his Italian journey might have furnished the poet with a subject for an idyl:—

We were lying by the brink of the lake (an old crater) under a group of fine plane-trees. A scanty rill gushed from the rock, and by it lay an old dry wooden trough, hollowed out of the stem of a tree. I regarded the scene as a pretty subject for a sketch, and did not remark that this wooden trough was a curiosity, since such articles are here always made of stone. An old man who had brought fruit said, in conversation with one of our party, "The Germans made this trough when they were quartered here in '44;—there used to be another, but it is decayed. There were cavalry in Remi then; and they made these troughs to water their horses." I immediately remembered what you [the Grand Duke] had formerly written to me about your part in the battle of Velletri, and asked the old man where the Germans had been posted; he told me everything. I had a great mind to send you a chip.

These scattered remarks are characteristic:—

There is nothing that does not admit of being represented in a favourable light.

When I saw high mass at Venice, I wished myself a child or a devotee.

The best actor at Rome is the Pope.

The longer I live, the more I dislike pathology.

What is meant by "Without which no museum can be complete"? That the article is in fashion.

You permit me, indeed require me, to write to you. I will do so with pleasure, if I may be allowed to confine myself to the suggestion of the hour, which may not be always the most important of all imaginable topics. It is difficult to say anything great; and the more one considers any subject, the more averse one feels to condescend to commonplace about it. It is best to express the subject in its totality or to be silent. I must always smile in secret when I see strangers industriously noting the first momentary effect produced upon them by the sight of any object.

This manner of thinking serves to explain why Goethe's letters so frequently disappoint expectation. An encounter with a great object or a great thought seems to have rarely evoked that excited mood which requires relief in expression, and which has usually prompted the finest examples of descriptive composition. His notices, even of objects that powerfully affected his imagination, are usually short and dry, unless intended as formal passages of criticism. For example, he is evidently profoundly impressed by Da Vinci's "Last Supper," yet his remarks upon it will not bear quotation; and throughout these volumes there prevails a remarkable penury of critical appreciation, except of the few writers or artists who were, in a manner, forced upon his notice. Thus, he mentions Manzoni, on occasion of sending the Duke a critique upon him contained in a number of "Kunst und Alterthum," but never goes out of his way to name any writer of whatever distinction. A considerable portion, indeed, of Goethe's part of the correspondence is pervaded by a certain air of formality, which may be partly explained by his habitual employment of a secretary, but still more by the example of dignity he may have thought it well to keep before a prince whose frank and impulsive disposition required but a slight inducement to transgress the limits of conventional decorum.

We shall resume the consideration of these volumes next week.

## HISTORY OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*The Book of the Royal Horticultural Society, 1862—1863. By Andrew Murray, Esq., F.L.S., &c. With Illustrations and Photographs. (Bradbury and Evans.)*

AT the beginning of this century gardening in England was at a low ebb compared with what it is in the present day. In the words of Dr. Lindley, "What was good in cultivation did not extend beyond the fruit and kitchen-garden, which was scantily supplied with varieties scarcely now remembered, except in the case of a few fruits and esculents little susceptible of change. Flower-gardens, shrubberies, and plantations contained little that had not been in them for centuries and more. Marshall, whose book on gardening had passed through five editions by the year 1813, has even at the last date few trees among his list beyond such as are natives of Europe, or as form the commonest vegetation of the United States; and his annual and perennial flowers have long since been confined to botanic gardens, with the exception of cockscombs, balsams, some convolvuli, hollyhocks, stocks, mignonette, Chinese pinks, and a small number of other species." Indeed, the hardy unprotected garden had been less cared for than the conservatory and the hot-house—for the inmates of which the principal solicitude had been manifested. It was to remedy this unsatisfactory state of things that Mr. John Wedgwood of Etruria, Staffordshire, proposed to establish a Horticultural Society. His plan, drawn up about 1801, met the approval of Sir Joseph Banks, at that time the head of scientific society in London, of Salisbury, the botanist, and of Aiton and Forsyth, the king's gardeners, who, together with a few other enthusiasts, met on the 7th of March, 1804, at Mr. Hatchard's house in Piccadilly, and there and then founded the Society whose history Mr. Murray has just published. Only ninety-one members appear to have been elected in 1804, and for the first few years the new association does not seem to have shown much vigour. More than six years elapsed before the first number of its "Transactions" made its appearance, a publication on which in 1830 no less than £25,250 had been expended. The Society was fortunate in possessing amongst its earliest members Mr. Thomas Andrew Knight, one of the greatest vegetable physiologists England has produced, and who, after the decease of the Earl of Dartmouth in 1811, became for many years its president. Knight was a Herefordshire country-gentleman, whose favourite science had grown out of his love for natural history, and especially for those branches of gardening which related to fruit-trees and esculent vegetables. He lived in a perry and cider country, where he found the produce diminishing yearly from neglect and unskilful management of orchard-trees; and this led him to devote heart and soul to the promotion of the new association, and endeavour by its aid to disseminate information among that great class of common gardeners who generally pursue the dull routine of their predecessors, and, if they deviate from it, rarely possess a sufficient share of science to enable them to deviate with success.

In 1816, after the general establishment of peace, the rise of the Society was rapid, the elections increasing from 73 in 1818 to 328 in 1821—the largest number ever added to the Society in any one year previous to its removal to South Kensington. At this period the Society seems to have attained the pinnacle of its legitimate celebrity, and displayed an activity far surpassing any since shown. The transactions appeared with great regularity, and contained papers of sterling value; the experimental gardens at Kensington and Ealing were in a flourishing condition; and seeds and plants, ornamental and useful, were imported in considerable quantities. Mr. John Reeves, a resident in Southern China, was instrumental in procuring and forwarding many novelties—a task in those

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days, when there were no Warden cases invented, and no Overland Mail every month, accompanied by great difficulties, and much loss of time and money, everything having to be shipped by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and in ill-constructed plant-cases. Encouraged by the success their importations had notwithstanding achieved, the Society determined to send abroad collectors of their own; and Messrs. George Don and J. Forbes were the first despatched to tropical Africa. Poor Forbes died at the Zambesi; but Don returned to England, richly laden with botanical treasures. Afterwards, Messrs. Potts and Dampier were sent out to China and the East Indies, and, in 1823, Mr. David Douglas to America. The mission of Douglas was one of the most successful the Horticultural Society had organized, and probably did more to make the Society known and appreciated than any other measure carried out. Douglas was first despatched to the United States to collect fruit-trees for the Society's garden; and, being well received by the fruit-cultivators of that country, and liberally supplied with every variety he wished, furnished the means for comparing the fruit-trees of North America with those of Great Britain, and for increasing the list of our collections by many valuable additions. In 1824 he was sent to the Oregon territory and Columbia River, then virgin soil, where he continued for six years, and was highly successful in discovering new and valuable trees, shrub and ornamental annuals. Many of the noble pine trees of our gardens and plantations we owe to Douglas's exertions. The musky Mimulus, a favourite flower of the Londoners, and now seen in the lowest alleys, was his importation. We are further indebted to him for the red-flowering ribes, the Mansanita, the Ceanothi, the Collomias, the Gilias, Gaillardias, Carkias, Godetias, Collinsias, many Lupines, Eschscholtzias, numerous Pentstemons, and many other favourites of the flower-garden. His useful life was brought to a melancholy conclusion at the Sandwich Islands, which he had gone to explore, by his falling into a pit dug for the capture of wild cattle. It is supposed that one of these enraged animals gored him to death, or, as others will have it, he was killed by the natives, and his body afterwards thrown into the pit. One of the tallest and most magnificent of his discoveries has been named after him—*Pinus Douglasi*. A flag-staff of immense height, recently erected in Kew Gardens, is made of a single trunk of it, and gives a fair idea of this truly noble tree. The explorations of Messrs. Hartweg and Fortune in tropical America and in China were also planned and paid for by the Horticultural Society, and were the means of largely adding to our living collections.

In 1822 the Society obtained a lease of the present garden at Chiswick from the Duke of Devonshire, and gave up the old gardens at Kensington and Ealing. This measure did not meet with the general approval of the Fellows; many resignations followed; and, henceforward to the time when the late Prince Consort assumed the presidency, the history of the Society is a constant series of shifts and embarrassments. It was simply madness, with a surplus revenue of no more than £1800, to relinquish the old inexpensive gardens and enter a new and costly establishment as that at Chiswick proved to be. In 1827 the old anniversary dinners, which had for so many years tended to cement by moderate conviviality the friendship begun through a community of pursuits or congeniality of tastes, were given up, and *fêtes* or public breakfasts in the garden were substituted for them. The Society gained little except renown, such as arises from a good breakfast, from these *fêtes*; the trouble of getting them up was very great—the profits realised very small (£22. 16s. 6d. in one instance); and, in 1831, they were finally discontinued, and garden-exhibitions substituted in their place, an idea originating with Dr. Lindley. In 1830 the debt (£20,243) began to press heavily upon the Society. The cost

of the formation and annual expense of the garden for the eight years from 1822 to 1830 had exceeded the amount of all separate subscriptions and sources of revenue, of whatever kind, by the large sum of nearly £29,000. And yet the Society at large was kept in profound ignorance of this state of affairs. The appointment of Dr. Lindley as assistant-secretary averted for a number of years the ruin towards which the Society was drifting. The flower-shows proved eminently successful, and a great part of the debt was paid off; but, as Schiller says in "Wallenstein":

Und wenn ein Haus in Feuer soll vergehen,  
Da treibt der Himmel sein Gewölk zusammen.

As long as the seasons were fine, all went on swimmingly. From 1833 to 1843 only two afternoons out of thirty-three were wet, and of these one was very slightly so. In 1845 and 1846 every day was fine; but, after that time, a change seemed to have taken place in the weather of May, June, and July, and, out of nine meetings, five were more or less stormy. On one of these occasions, before the so-called breakfast *fêtes* had been abandoned, the day turned out unpropitious.

Large numbers of tickets had been disposed of, which had cost not only £2. 2s. a head, but also much expense of interest among the exclusive Lady Patronesses who dispensed them. The tickets were thus too valuable to be thrown away, and the majority of their holders braved the bad weather in the hope of its clearing up. On the part of the Society nothing had been omitted to make the entertainment worthy of itself and the expected guests. Ample tents and temporary wooden buildings had been erected, and all the resources of Messrs. Gunter brought into play to provide the feast. Gorgeous plate, fine china, and sparkling crystal combined with the most delicate viands and high-priced wines to charm the eye and tempt the palate. What the morning promised—(a wet day)—the noon fulfilled, and the weather settled into confirmed rain; and, as the hours wore on, it grew worse and worse, and the rain fell heavier and heavier. Still the possessors of the much-prized tickets made their appearance. Carriage after carriage deposited its fair and gaily-dressed freight at the gates, whence ushered into the tents they endeavoured to drown the splashing of the rain on the roof by the loud harmony of military bands, and to forget their discomfort in the enjoyments of the table. Many and strange were the scenes that passed: the tents were open in front, and the driving rain came pelting in—the canvas roof soon distilled drops or streams at many places—the ladies as they sat or stood found the water invading their shoes; the ingenuity of the gentlemen came to the rescue—some of the ladies were placed on the table—the dishes were emptied of their cold fowls and tongues and hams, and the ladies stood or sat on the dishes, the viands being placed on the bare table; and the mixture of crossness, good-humour, and fun was indescribable. The cold and wet demanded support, and the supply of champagne was liberal, so that, notwithstanding the frightful weather, the company became gay and merry. Little they knew the anxiety and trouble the officials had been put to, to procure them even such qualified enjoyment without interruption. The entertainment had scarcely commenced when news was brought to Dr. Lindley that the torrents of rain had so soaked and sapped the earth, that the pillars or supports of the temporary buildings forming the rear of the tents were beginning to yield, and that there was danger that the whole fabric might give way, and bury the company in its wet embrace. Dr. Lindley, with his usual fertility of resource, instantly sent into the streets, pot-houses, barns, and smithies of Chiswick and Turnham Green, wherever men in a rainy day most do congregate. "Hire," said he, "every man you can get; don't stand upon the price; give them one shilling an hour, two shillings, five shillings, whatever they require, but hire them instantly, and send them in at once." As the men came, they were posted in clumps around every pillar and support to hold them up, while the unconscious guests revelled within. No sooner had the last visitor taken his departure, and the men been released from their long and laborious duty, than the posts and pegs at the back of the tents and buildings slowly yielded, ploughing through the muddy puddle in which they stood, and the whole fabric gave way with a crash, burying in one undistinguishable ruin the

tables, and the dinner-service, wines, and viands under their wet and heavy folds. "What are we to do, Sir?" cried the panic-stricken servants. "Let them lie until Monday," was the reply; and so they did, and longer than Monday.

An almost continued series of rainy exhibition-days proved a heavy loss to the Society's income—the flower-shows, instead of yielding their old profit of £2000, left in many instances a loss. The debt, which had decreased during the flood-tide, again augmented; the Fellows became alarmed; and resignations followed in large numbers. The Council did everything in their power to meet the difficulties:—

Nothing more could be done in the way of reduction of expenditure. They had already reduced the Society's establishment to its lowest working point. Dr. Royle, who had for seven years filled the honorary office of Secretary, having died in 1857, Dr. Lindley had resigned the paid office of Vice-Secretary, which he had filled with so much distinction since 1830, and been elected to the Honorary (unpaid) office of Secretary in Dr. Royle's place. The Vice-Secretaryship was not filled up. Their next step was, therefore, to realise the property of the Society, so far as this could be done, without stopping its action. The house in Regent Street, which had been the focus of Horticulture for so many years, was disposed of for £3000; and, in place of it, a small office was taken in Trafalgar Square, consisting of one room and lobby or ante-room, at a rent of £80 a-year; and, to crown all, the magnificent library, which had been growing during a period of forty years, until it was now one of the finest Botanical libraries in the world, and which, moreover, contained a multitude of original and typical drawings, was brought to the hammer and dispersed beyond recall.

It was at this stage that the late Prince Consort stepped in, and, like the good fairy, changed the fortunes of the Society. The ground at Kensington was secured; arcades, conservatories, fountains, statues, and other ornaments secured; and a fashionable resort created. The Society once more resumed its former activity; and may it long continue to do so!

Mr. Murray's "Book of the Royal Horticultural Society" is a magnificent specimen of typography, and dedicated to the memory of the Prince Consort, by her Majesty's permission—Mr. Shirley Brooks having kindly furnished the elegant verses serving as dedication. The numerous illustrations and photographs by John Leighton, Thomas Scott, and C. Thurston Thompson render the volume a perfect treasure, and greatly enhance the interest of Mr. Murray's narrative and descriptions.

## MARGARET STOURTON; OR, A YEAR OF GOVERNESS LIFE.

*Margaret Stourton; or, A Year of Governess Life.* (Rivingtons.)

PLEASANT it is to take up a nicely printed book, of paper creamy in colour, with wood-cut capitals at the beginning of every chapter, and type in the form known in those by-gone days when books were scarcer than now, and were thought by the Tonsons and Dodsleys to demand some little care in the getting up; and pleasanter still it is, when the leaves are cut, to find that such care has been bestowed upon a book which one can read through to the end.

The details of daily life, with all the surroundings of wealth, in a country-house, are often monotonous enough to one engaged in the simple routine of a governess's duties; but a sound intelligence and a cheerful temper can make much, both for their owner and for others, from the incidents and opportunities of such a life. The Margaret Stourton of the present story, at all events, looked her position in the face. The circumstances of her father, Captain Stourton, who "had seen many years of active service in the Royal Navy, and had retired upon half-pay," had become straitened by "the failure of the mercantile house in which the greater part of his fortune was embarked." Of the family, "William was the eldest; then came Margaret, Lucy, and Katie, and then John."

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A distant relative, Sir John Stourton, assisted them in their time of need by "paying John's school expenses until he was prepared for the navy, and then gave him his outfit." William entered the Church; and his small stipend just sufficed to prevent his being a burden to his parents. Captain Stourton's health became seriously impaired by the anxiety which hopeless debt caused him. It was then that a situation as governess to Lady North's children was offered to Margaret. She accepts it with diffidence, and goes to town to the house of a Mrs. Lyndsey to be introduced to the lady, who, with her son, Sir Roger, and her eldest daughter, Emily, are on the eve of departure for the continent. It is this departure for the continent, at the moment of the loss of a former governess, that has made her anxious to secure another, in whose charge she may leave the children, who remain at home; and Miss Stourton has been recommended to her in a way that thoroughly satisfies her.

Margaret's first evening in London is somewhat troubled by the ignorance of Mrs. Lyndsey's guests as to her position. This discomfort, however, is the result of a misunderstanding of Mrs. Lyndsey's "manner;" and, engaged by Lady North, at a salary of one hundred pounds a year, Margaret travels by train to her destination at Northcourt House. In the same carriage are two ladies; and other persons afterwards occupy the vacant seats. One, a gentleman, sits opposite to her, busily engaged with his newspaper. Having read it, he took out a pen-knife, and, dividing the sheet, gave one half to Margaret and the other to his neighbour. The knife slips into a crevice between the seat and the cushion, and is found by Margaret after he leaves the train. She takes care of it, and eventually meets the owner at a grand *fête*, given by Sir Gaspard and Lady Howick, to which she is especially invited, along with "the North children." Mr. Greville Stratton, the son of Lady Vaux, gladly receives back his property, which had been the gift of a deceased brother. He admires Miss Stourton; and from a Miss Edge, "the Barings' governess," who looked very miserable, and whom she met at Lady Harriet Colvin's (Lady North's sister), whether the children went to spend the day, Margaret hears much about him that interests her. This Miss Edge is one of the characters of the story, and is thus introduced—

Margaret found some difficulty in realizing herself to be in the same position as Miss Edge. No two people could look much more unlike. "But," she thought to herself, "I am a governess and she is a governess, and yet,—she is precisely the kind of person I am at first inclined to shrink from; she is exactly one's ideal of 'the governess' in a novel." Miss Edge was tall, thin, pale, melancholy, and almost morose-looking. "It is long since she has been happy, poor thing," thought Margaret, continuing her reverie; "I must try to get her to let me make friends with her."

They do become friends; and the influence of Margaret's genial temper on this governess of another type comes out in the course of the story. Other characters there are, and other incidents of a quiet kind, all conducing to the closer approximation of Mr. Stratton and Margaret. Thus, there is a picnic in the forest in honour of Sir Roger's birthday, attended by a gathering of many friends. "Tandem donkey-carts," pony carriages, and other vehicles, are there; and a hunter's horn, used by Oliver North, collects or disperses the party. The signal after the dinner is answered unexpectedly by a loud "halloo!" which is found to proceed from Mr. Stratton, who, in riding through an adjacent wood, has been thrown from his horse. Mrs. Shirley, the rector's wife, has him conveyed to her home; and there he is doctored and nursed. And so the end of the story is furthered. But William Stourton is made a minor canon. Margaret is then wanted to "keep his house;" but Emily North's increased illness prevents her from acceding to his wish. Mrs. Stourton's health, however, at length compels Margaret to give up

her charge. The "North children," with Watson, the confidential nurse, join their mother on the continent, and Margaret and her family go to the south of France—the young girl's savings from her salary as governess enabling them to take the journey. But Emily North dies, and Northcote is again the residence of "the family." Then Margaret is "again a governess," in her old place; and there, as governess, she is wooed and won. As Mrs. Stratton she enters on a wider sphere for the exercise of the good sense and cheerfulness which had been all along the secret of her influence. With some allowances, "Margaret Stourton" may take a place beside the kindred writings of Miss Sewell and Miss Yonge.

## HOME WALKS AND HOLIDAY RAMBLES.

*Home Walks and Holiday Rambles.* By the Rev. C. A. Johns, B.A., F.L.S. (Longman & Co.)

"Pleasant it is when woods are green,  
And winds are soft and low,  
To lie amid some sylvan scene  
Where, the long, drooping boughs between,  
Shadows dark and sunlight sheen  
Alternate come and go."

PLEASANT, indeed, thus to lie, as it were, in the lap of Nature, and with an innocent dreamy sensuality to revel in the charms which (particularly at this genial season of the year) she so prodigally offers, and with which she so invitingly appeals, to every sense of our being. But pleasanter far, to our minds, to wander hand in hand with her through the ferny brakes, among the soft mossy glades of the oak-shadowed coppice, over the common, redolent of thyme and studded with golden whin, or along the green meadow-banks of the rippling stream; to watch with her the bright-eyed lizard, as, with short quick movement and upraised head, he halts to satisfy himself as to the designs of the intruder; to examine perhaps the tiny star of the hazel bloom or the busy movements of the seething colonies of wood-ants, while charmed by the "voices of the well-conducted doves;" to mark the habits of the whinchat as he pertly flits from spray to spray, or the rarer Dartford warbler with stealthier flight seeking the cover of the adjoining furze-bush, and to speculate on (though generally in vain, we admit, to follow) the prolonged but deceptive whisper of that self-taught ventriloquist the grass-hopper-warbler; or, by the water-side, chequered with marsh-marigold and forget-me-not, to watch the graceful movements of the *Phryganide*, or those "expanding circles of gold, silver, and precious stones," announcing the death-warrants of so many of their kindred by the lusty trout.

To scenes such as these we must be grateful to those who, as the exponents of nature, lovingly endeavour to introduce us, and among the number of whom we with pleasure recognise, and acknowledge our debt to, Mr. Johns. By those to whom his name is familiar as the author of "Flowers of the Field," any work undertaken by him in connexion with natural history will be hailed with welcome, in the assurance that the same closeness and patience of research, the same lucidity of explanation, and the same accuracy of arrangement, which form distinguishing features in his "Flowers of the Field," will be brought to bear upon it, whatever may be the particular subject which he may have taken in hand.

The volume which he has now presented to the public is, as may be gathered from its title, of modest pretensions, it having been, as he tells us in his preface, his main object "to add one to the useful class of works which, being neither essentially technical, nor prominently bringing forward either marvels or rarities, treat the subject of natural history as an intellectual out-of-door amusement;" the incidents mentioned in it being professedly "not exciting," but such as "may occur to anyone who lays himself in their way by rambling in his garden or the adjacent country."

On taking up the volume, our attention is attracted by a well-executed representation of a Blue Tit clinging to a walnut suspended from a bough, which forms a conspicuous and suggestive ornament on the cover; and the first thing which strikes us in it is, that the bird is clinging by one foot alone, the other remaining stretched out idly in the air. Is this accidental, or a mistake of the engravers? Neither. The bird is represented as it appeared—Mr. Johns having remarked

that it is in the habit of hanging on by one foot, the other being left disengaged, and projecting from the body as if paralysed, its hold being nevertheless perfectly firm and secure: for, though a piece of meat similarly suspended dangled to and fro in the wind, and often spun round and round, the bird showed no sign of being annoyed, but clung fast, picking and boring until all the meat had disappeared, and the gristle had dried up to the consistence of horn.

The notes contained in the book—though occasionally extending to other subjects, such as the theory (to which he is not prepared to subscribe) that frogs and toads may now exist "which swam in the water in which Adam may have bathed his sturdy limbs"—generally take the form of a diary, commencing with the year 1861 (and, we presume, at home, though where that may be does not clearly appear), the Preface being dated from the neighbourhood of Winchester, which we can scarcely recognise as harmonizing with the scenes of some of the events related. From a casual mention of Hertfordshire, however, we are led to conclude that the principal part of the home-incidents took place in that county. As it happens, the absence of a definite *locus in quo* scarcely affects the value of the notes in question, though that it might easily have done so will be understood when we consider that the mere announcement of the nidification or appearance of a bird under unusual circumstances, without specifying the place where it has occurred, obviously becomes comparatively useless for the purposes of actual information.

Let us, after this slight criticism, allow Mr. Johns to introduce us to some of the characters a diary of whose proceedings from time to time has been kept for them in the pages before us.

Those brought first upon the stage are Tits of two kinds and Nuthatches, who have accepted an invitation to a dinner, consisting of two walnuts tied by strings from the twigs of an apple-tree, close to his dining-room window. The tits cling to the nut back downwards—how, we have seen. Among these, a very unlooked-for visitor appears—namely, "a great tit endowed with a mechanical turn of mind." He has "perhaps found the inverted posture in eating to interfere with digestion; so he has adopted the plan of perching on the twig, and pulling up the string as cleverly as a sailor would haul in a rope. For this purpose he on one occasion was observed to employ one of his feet in pulling up the string, the other being occupied in securing and pressing beneath it against the twig each turn as it was hauled in. His usual method is, however, to haul up the string with his beak, and to place it turn by turn under his foot; the nut thus rises to the twig on which he is standing, and he then feeds away at his leisure."

It is well known that some birds, as goldfinches and canaries, may be taught (among other tricks) to draw water for themselves by buckets from their reservoirs; but who would have expected to hear of one in the natural state exercising his ingenuity on his own account? That "Necessity is the mother of invention," is not applicable to mankind alone, is shown by this curious anecdote—one added to the numberless others which go far to prove how slight is the interval which separates instinct from reason.

A "holiday ramble" (we presume) soon takes the author to Norfolk, where, gun in hand, he endeavours to make himself acquainted with the various birds occurring along the sandhills which lie between Wells

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and Holkham—procuring, amongst other specimens, one of the short-eared owl, to whose charge (as it seems to us, on scarcely sufficient grounds) he attributes the death of a bird whose feathers he found in the vicinity. Numbers of wild-fowl and other birds, which had been driven to this part of the coast by a severe frost, are successively noticed by him—an enormous flock of dualins particularly attracting his attention from the magical rapidity with which they wheeled, “as if the whole swarm was steered by a single will,” appearing as a light cloud, as of “smoke from a factory-chimney,” then disappearing, and “instantaneously revealing themselves again, flying in a different direction, and reflecting a glittering snowy white.” It is, indeed, at any time a remarkable sight; and when seen, as we once happened to see such a flock, lit up by the full brightness of an afternoon sun against a background of blackest winter-cloud, now lost in darkness, and now suddenly flashing out into a broad belt of silver (as the upper or under sides of the birds composing it were presented to view), the effect may be readily imagined as striking in the extreme.

On his return home we again find the author turning his attention to the various denizens of his garden, and noting their peculiarities of song and habit with equal truth and precision. In the course of the spring an unexpected accession to his “happy family” presents itself in the shape of a hungry young cuckoo, which (“opening its ugly orange-coloured mouth, and uttering, whenever anyone approached it, a sharp impatient chirp, almost as shrill as that of a mouse”) is transferred from a hedgessparrow’s nest, whence he has been brought by a boy, “to that of a flycatcher’s, who had built hers in a standard rose-tree, about a dozen yards from his drawing-room window, and had been sitting for a week upon four eggs.” In about five minutes he sees the flycatcher “quit her nest with her ordinary flight, as if nothing unusual had happened;” and, on watching the nest shortly afterwards through an opera-glass,

there was the foster-mother already engaged in her motherly vocation, delighted, no doubt, to believe that in her brief absence her four eggs had turned into such a beautiful great bird. The cuckoo’s mouth was wide open, and she was putting fly after fly into his jaws, her own head disappearing every time.

Our space does not admit of our following the career of this interesting foundling; but our readers will be glad to hear that, in spite of his ravenous appetite (in their endeavours to appease which his poor foster-parents were kept up late into the night), and his rapid growth, which led to his being translated into the roomier quarters of a thrush’s nest, placed in a cage hard by, his education was at length satisfactorily completed, and he thanklessly took leave of his tutor and foster-parents, who, we are scarcely surprised to hear, did not seem much distressed at his loss.

Two more successive “holiday rambles” take the author to Islay, N.B., and to Clovelly, where he apparently makes active use of his time, while handling the rod, gun, or fishing-line, in noting the various incidents which take place around him bearing on his favourite pursuit. It is not without satisfaction that we find we have additional ground for welcoming Mr. Johns as a brother of the angle, nor are we in the least surprised that such is the case. It may not invariably follow that every naturalist will be enrolled among the votaries of the gentle art; but, led as they are in the exercise of it to explore the loveliest recesses of the country, surrounded as they are on all sides with objects of interest which their leisure gives them an opportunity of examining, while they are for the very purposes of sport absolutely obliged to cultivate a near acquaintance with insect life, it would be indeed surprising if the converse were not generally true, and that the real fisherman were not insensibly led by his pursuit to a genuine love for

nature, and at least a desire to obtain some further knowledge of her boundless treasures.

In conclusion, the author, *à propos* of prizes which he had offered to some young people for a collection of mosses, appositely says—

All the visible results of their labours may be a handful of green sprigs; but the mind which has been at work in determining species, and arranging them systematically, has acquired a habit of exactness, which must of necessity be exercised on other and more important subjects. The boy who, during a country-walk, has found occupation in learning how to distinguish between *Hypnum loreum* and *H. triquetrum*, will have his faculties in better order for parsing a grammatical sentence than his companion, who impatiently spent the same time in beating down nettles with his walking-stick.

While Mr. Johns’s book will, as well from its external as internal attractions, naturally commend itself to the young, it may be perused with pleasure, and not without instruction, by all. His aim has not been an ambitious one; but, such as it is, he has accomplished it unostentatiously and pleasantly. C. S.

## BRAZILIAN LITERATURE.

*La Brésil littéraire. Histoire de la Littérature Brésilienne, suivie d'un Choix de Morceaux tirés des meilleurs Auteurs Brésiliens.* Par Ferdinand Wolf. (Berlin: Asher & Co.)

THIS sober, stately, erudite book is neither more nor less than a “sensation.” It announces a discovery which will be as startling to many as that of the Nile’s sources:—to wit, that Brazil has a literature of her own. This is the first and only book on the subject that has appeared anywhere in Europe, including even Germany. Naturalists, ethnographers, historians, politicians have taken great interest in the country, its contents, and its destinies. Indeed, had it not been for the Nestor of European Kings, our own knowledge of Brazilian men and things might by this time have been considerably increased. We hardly know how to account for so long a flash of silence with respect to the mental produce of the country—a silence which, when we glance at the prodigious amount of materials brought together in this book, seems to have been almost that “silencing to death” with which, by common consent, certain works and certain facts and certain people are driven beyond the pale of society. One of the chief reasons has, indeed, been the want of proper sources of information. Portugal, the mother of the colony, where all the materials might be expected in abundance, is, so our author tells us, jealous of her daughter—will not have her “come out” as yet. Europe at large, on the other hand, has not had time to distinguish between Portuguese and Brazilian writers, considering that both employ the same tongue. As if the term “*volgare*” suggested the sole difference between Roman and Italian literature, or as if English and American literature were not divided by the broadest of lines of demarcation. But Brazil herself does not seem to have taken this general neglect to heart, for she has not deemed it worth her while to produce that which was wanting—a modern handbook to her literary history which should come down to our days. The work had to be done at last by a German; and right well has he done it. With all the exhaustive thoroughness of his countrymen, with all their ant-like minuteness of research, assisted by great learning, and more especially by an intimate acquaintance with Spanish and Portuguese writings, both mediæval and modern, Dr. Wolf has made this labour of love so complete that, as no one came before him, so, it seems to us, no one will come after him, as far as at least regards the period of which he treats—that is, from the discovery of Brazil to this present year. Henceforth, before we talk, as we have now learnt to do, of a Phœnician, an Assyrian, or even an Etruscan “Literature”—such “Literature” consisting at best of several shattered, more or less illegible records, which, when deciphered after endless trials, speak to us of things

dead and strange to our hearts—we shall be bound to recognise a rich and brilliant Brazilian Literature which breathes the sentiments, narrates the deeds, and preserves the dreams and fancies of a whole modern nation of men and women—living, loving, hoping, and suffering after the manner of human beings intelligible from their likeness to ourselves.

In this extraordinary case of a literature found in the drift, we have had, so far, to go through the ceremony of a formal introduction; we must let pass, however, the opportunity of making the necessary variations, *à propos* of Brazil, on the master’s theme—

Would’st thou the poet understand,  
Go thou to the poet’s land.

We must leave it to others to show how the chequered history of the colony, its at first all-pervading but gradually fading reminiscences of the mother-land in Europe, the mixture which soon began in it of Portuguese and native blood, and, above all, the extraordinary natural conditions of the country known as Brazil, have influenced the development of its literature. Be it our task rather, since for the reasons stated we cannot pre-suppose any knowledge of the subject in the minds of our readers, to offer them, instead of such *raisonnements*, a brief sketch of what the book before us contains.

There was no literature—in our sense of the word—among the native savages of Brazil when Cabral took possession of it in the name of the Portuguese crown. Their wild songs of war and love—epics and lyrics at once, mostly improvised by their male and female troubadours, the Tupinambas—have perished without leaving a trace. Yet the indigenous inhabitants were not without their share in the literary development which took place under the auspices of their conquerors. Mamelucos and Mestizos have aided considerably in the work, although their part cannot be exactly defined.

Surveying the whole field as it now stretches itself before us, we have to distinguish, it seems, five chief periods from the commencement of National Brazilian Literature to the present day.

The first may be reckoned from the time of the discovery of Brazil to the end of the seventeenth century. Like all modern European literatures, the Brazilian was cradled by the Church-Jesuit Missionaries. These indefatigable pioneers of civilization built the first schools, in Bahia in 1543 and in Piratininga in 1554, where, besides Latin grammar, the rudiments of theology were taught, and whence issued the first national writers and poets. Vicente de Salvador, born in 1564 at Bahia, composed a history of Brazil; Domingos Barboza wrote Latin poetry; the brothers Mesquita were dramatists. Mysteries and pastorals—in Castilian, Portuguese, and Indian—orations, ecclesiastical and other, *Modinhas*, or snatches of popular songs, have, however fragmentary, come down to us from this period. As the most ancient Brazilian poet who wrote in Portuguese, must be considered Bento Teixeira Pinto, born about the middle of the tenth century at Pernambuco. He was the author of a “*Prosopopeia*,” written in *ottave rime*, of which, however, nothing but the title has been preserved; further, of eclogues, sonnets, pastorals, &c., which are supposed to have survived; and of a “*Relação do Naufragio*,” an account of a shipwreck which he suffered, together with his friend Albuquerque, in 1565, and which is considered to be one of the finest pieces of Portuguese writing. Diogo Gomes Carneiro, 1628-1676, was another eminent writer of this period; and John IV. of Portugal bestowed upon him the title of “*Chronista geral*” of Brazil. The two brothers Gregorio and Eusebio Mattos likewise “flourished” at that time. Both were gifted poets; but the first, the greater of the two, was as frivolous, adventurous, and satirical as the other, the elder, was religious, austere, mystical. Gregorio’s brilliant talents became, indeed, his curse. A whole chain of disgraces and banishments could not teach him “to leave everybody and everything alone”—a condition under which he was

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finally admitted into a refuge for destitute old men, and which he did not fulfil even then. The first Brazilian writer who took care to ensure his immortality by the press was Manoel Botelho de Oliveira, who sent his "Musica di Parnasso" to the printing-office of the Inquisition in Portugal, there to be printed. Some of his descriptive pieces possess a singular charm. With him (d. 1711) this first period, chiefly characterized by a more or less close imitation of Spanish and Portuguese models, fitly closes.

The second period follows, embracing the first half of the eighteenth century, during which the importance of the colony rose rapidly, and Bahia became the seat of a viceroy. Poetry, with its natural turn for the amenities of life, clung to the opulent court, which developed a pomp and splendour worthy of a land strewn with diamonds. Considering, moreover, that, under the auspices of the viceroy, there sprang up the first national academy—the "Academia Brazilica dos Esquecidos"—we cannot be surprised that poetry, royally recognised and fostered, showed itself as grateful as it could—became, in short, for the time being, panegyrical. Brito de Lima, Gonzalo Soares da Franca, the brothers Guzman—one of whom, also, invented the balloon—the two Franciscans Francisco Xavier de Santa Teresa and Manoel de Santa Maria Itaparica, and others—all rising more or less above mediocrity only—were for the most part engaged in extolling the virtues of royal babies, or, at best, in describing certain localities in which they themselves or some other star had been born, and had dreamt early dreams. Yet to this time, so poor in lyrical and epic poetry, belongs not only the first real national historian of Brazil, Sebastian de Rocha Pitta, but also one of the most eminent and fertile dramatic authors, Antonio Jose de Silva, the unfortunate writer of the "Operas," nicknamed "Do Judeu." Suspected of Judaism, he was, for the furtherance of the glory of God and His Church, solemnly burnt in a grand *Auto da Fé*, at which his mother and his wife had been accommodated with seats, commanding a fine view of the sacred spectacle—the poor culprit's plays all the while electrifying both Brazil and Portugal then, as they do up to this moment.

The third period—the second half of the eighteenth century—witnessed the rise of Rio de Janeiro, which, since 1763, had become the new residence of the vice-king, and thus at once formed a new centre for all the *beaux esprits* and their literary deeds. It witnessed, further, the discovery of the mines of Minas Geraes, and the consequent paramount importance of Brazil for the mother-country. Aristotle holds that, as soon as man has abundance, he turns his thoughts to philosophy and learning; and, however palpable the fallacy of this dictum in general, for once he was right. The unparalleled state of sudden prosperity in Brazil gave birth to "Arcadias," "Academias," "Sociedades"—bodies official and unofficial without end, the sole object of which was the furtherance of learning and the cultivation of letters throughout the land. Fettered hitherto by a certain adherence to Portuguese models, which in themselves were only fashioned after French or Italian patterns, the literature of Brazil towards the end of this period at last effected its emancipation. This was chiefly due to the "School of Mines"—not an institution like ours of that name in Jermyn Street, but a literary and political body, which took its name, like our Lake-school, from the district in which its chief members resided. The great historical event known as the "Conspiracy of the Mines," through which this league gained for Brazil its political independence, wrought, as a natural consequence, also the independence of literature. Names of distinguished lyrical, epical, and, above all, patriotic writers, become frequent. We have Jose Basilio da Gama, the author of one of the finest "Epics of Liberty," entitled "Uruguay," Santa Rita Durao, the poet of "Caramuru," Jose Fran-

cisco Cordoso, and others; and, of lyrical poets of the first magnitude, we meet Claudio Manoel da Costa, Gonzago, Alvarenga, Peixoto, Barboza, Mello Franco, Ribeiro, besides a host of others of somewhat minor importance—all more or less "stehend auf der Zinne der Partei," as Freiligrath has it—belonging to the "Miners."

The fourth period is ushered in by the present century, or rather by the formal "Proclamation of Independence," which put a complete stop to all factions and their fights. How all the energy, all the enthusiasm, all the brilliancy, with which the new-born country endeavoured to rival and to excel Portugal, found appropriate vent also in literature, we must leave our author to tell—eloquently as the subject deserves it. It was France, it was England, it was Germany, whose works were now taken, not as patterns for imitation, but as inspiring models; and if the fourth estate, "the Press," must needs now be ranked among the "Letters" of a country, then we must not omit to state that the powerful *Correio Braziliense*, the first newspaper of Brazil worthy of its rank, was founded at this time by Hippolito Jose Dacosta Pereira, and in London. After a brief *intermezzo* of sacred oratory and poetry—a reaction against the humanists—which characterizes the beginning of this period, and in which were distinguished Caldas, Francisco de S. Carlos, Ottoni, &c., politics, patriotism, and exile, intermixed with sweet strains of love, were sung by Jose Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva—savant, statesman, and poet—by Barboza, Branco, Borges de Barros, all scions of noble houses, marquises and viscounts, and by many others. Patriotism—ardent, proud, defiant—is, indeed, the mainspring and the main subject of all the writings, prosaic and poetical, of this period. Names of *littérateurs* eminent in all branches of *belles-lettres* now crowd thick and fast upon us; and we can only select at random Francisco Villeta, Barboza, Manoel Alves Branco, Saldanha, Titara, Macedo, Ribeiro, &c., &c. That linguistic science—grammar, lexicography, &c.—was not neglected in a time of so general a cultivation of literature, need hardly be said.

And thus we have arrived at the end of our journey of exploration. With the year 1840 commences a new period, which is not finished yet. The monarchy consolidated itself; and the government and the emperor personally aid, encourage, and foster science, learning, and art. And Brazil, we are told, need not now shrink from a comparison with any country in or out of Europe, as far as the proportionate number and the sterling value of her best writers are concerned. Accounts of them fill very many pages in Dr. Wolf's book; and, considering that we have nearly exceeded our space already, and also that, as modern authors, these Brazilians have their claims to be read by all educated men and women, and not merely known by hearsay, we shall confine ourselves to simply naming a few, in order that our ears may become somewhat acquainted with their strange sounds. There is Gonzalves de Magalhaes, the author of the grand epopee "Confederação dos Tamoyos;" there is Manoel de Araujo Porto Alegre, the celebrated painter and poet of "Colombo;" there is Antonio Gonzalves Dias, a lyrical, epic, and dramatic writer of high eminence, whose "Nebulosa," a poem in five cantos, has caused, it seems, an immense sensation. Then there is Manoel Odorico Mendez, "the greatest living writer of Brazil;" and there are Norberto de Souza Silva, Teixeira e Souza, Alvares de Azevedo, &c. Turning more especially to the drama, we find the already-mentioned Magalhaes, the founder of the national stage, Porto Alegre, Penna, Macedo, and others, authors of comedies, tragedies, libretti, farces, &c.—some of them members of the great "Conservatorio Dramatico Brasileiro." Curious as it may seem, by the side of this modern drama, there still lingers the ancient "mystery" introduced at the time of the first discovery of the country—

as it lingers in some out-of-the-way nooks of Germany (witness the Ammergau), France, and Spain. The novel is cultivated by Joaquim Manoel de Macedo, Antonio Gonçalves Teixeira e Souza, and others. Eloquence in the pulpit, the bar, the platform, in the academical chair, is worthily represented; nor is there any want of biographical, historical, geographical, and other handbooks. What little has been done for the literary history of the country is owing to Adolpho de Varnhagen, one of the most painstaking, yet lucid writers of our day.

Brazilian literature, in short, has been and is a "something" more considerable than has yet been supposed in the civilization of the world; and Europe might do well, as it has recognised the Brazilian nation, so to notice also, and to make some use of, the literature it has to exhibit. And thus, with a hearty welcome to the present book, we recommend it and its subject to our readers. To the author—who comes before us very much like another Columbus, and whose rare assiduity, knowledge, tact, and taste are displayed throughout, not only in the general arrangement of his subject, and the biographical sketches which he intersperses, but also in the selection of the Poems: a selection so fine that we are half afraid to take it as an impartial representation of the body of Brazilian poetry—are due the thanks of the whole world of letters. Our special commendations are no less owing to the well-known continental firm which encouraged and enabled Mr. Wolf to undertake his arduous task, and which has done all in its power to render the book thoroughly worthy of its contents.

## KINGSLEY ON THE PENTATEUCH.

*The Gospel of the Pentateuch.* A Set of Parish Sermons by the Rev. C. Kingsley. (Parker, Son, and Bourn.)

IT is one of the disagreeable incidents of controversy that those who cannot side with either extreme are apt to incur the reproaches of both parties. Each party assumes that it has a natural right to the allegiance of all who do not belong to the other; and, in the eyes of persons who love sharp and easy distinctions, and who often speak with the most authoritative air, a position which is neither one thing nor the other will generally seem untenable and weak. So it happens now in the controversy relating to the most ancient books of the Old Testament. There are two extreme parties—one which we may regard as represented by Dr. Cumming or the Bishop of Manchester, and which holds that every statement in the Bible is preternaturally guarded from the slightest error; the other, of which Bishop Colenso is the leader, which holds that the Pentateuch is a mass of fiction. "Do you believe in the Inspiration of the Bible or not?—yes or no?" says the former party: "If you do, side with us; if you do not, go over to the infidels and atheists." "Do you admit that there is human error in the Bible or not?—yes or no?" says the latter party: "If you do, you are with us; if you do not, take your place honestly with the obscurantist faction." But a very large number of the clergy and of laymen interested in the question are refusing to rank themselves either with Bishop Lee or Bishop Colenso. They object altogether to the Yes or No style of argument. They feel instinctively that, in very deep and sacred matters of belief, the truth is not to be arrived at by hardy assertion on one side or the other. But of course their position is not satisfactory to either party.

At the present crisis the hope of a sound theology,—the hope, one might almost say, of the Church itself,—lies in a mixture of caution and reverence with regard to the authority of our sacred books. Language which had been at first the warm spontaneous utterance of veneration for the Bible had become indurated into logical and scientific forms, and in this state has been found to offend against critical and historical

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truth. At this point we are invited to adopt the conclusion that the five earliest books of Scripture are the offspring of religious imagination. Such a conclusion seems to most of us monstrous; our reason and our reverence are equally shocked by it. Of course so deep and wide-spread a feeling will find expression. But what can be more rational or more desirable than that the clergy and other religious persons should be cautious and hesitating, and even timid in laying down doctrines as to the inspiration or the verbal accuracy of the Scriptures? What could be more silly or disastrous than that they should rush into definitions simply for the sake of saying something definite and strong? We have surely quite enough of this rashness. But, because the clergy in general are so weak as not to take, at a moment's notice, one side or the other, a vigorous magazine-writer, under the title of "A Lay Churchman," has recently poured out upon the clergy the vials of a contempt he can hardly find words to express. The one quality which excites his scorn is "indecision." In the old days of the Church, he says, questions "were not only agitated, but settled." "This is the doctrine of the Church—believe or be damned. Even in our own days the Pope himself is able to erect the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary into an article of faith. Why cannot the body which claims to teach the laity say with equal vigour whether or no the Bible is absolutely true?" It is scarcely possible to believe that the writer is serious: But this is the bearing of the whole article. The ultimate crushing reproach against the clergy is that "they have no definite doctrine about the Bible." When once the laity in general see this as clearly as the "Lay Churchman" there is to be an end, according to this writer, of the clergy and their teaching. It is to be hoped that the influence of the clergy will depend in the long run much more upon truth, and reverence for truth, than upon definiteness and audacity.

It is a natural, but most confusing and most mischievous, consequence of the "Lay Churchman's" way of stating the case that he identifies Bishop Colenso and Dean Milman, and believes that it is only the flunkeyism of the clerical world which has saved the Dean of St. Paul's from the persecution with which the colonial bishop has been visited. But this logical identification does not justify such an astonishing statement as this: "The 'History of the Jews' contains a score of passages as strong as anything written by Dr. Colenso." The fact is that Dean Milman accepts the history as a singularly true record of genuine Divine action, and hardly expresses any doubts which may not be found in other highly esteemed English divines. Many clergymen and laymen who have been most repelled by Bishop Colenso's hypothesis have rejoiced in the works of Dean Milman and Dr. Stanley, because, without repudiating criticism, they have maintained with entire faith, and with recognised historical insight, the reality of the Divine education of the Jews.

In "The Gospel of the Pentateuch" Mr. Kingsley professedly treads in the steps of these leaders. He probably accepts the literal statements of the Pentateuch more closely than either Dean Milman or Dr. Stanley. But, with them, he welcomes "a reverent and rational criticism" in the study of the Bible. He believes that the "infinite and incalculable difference" is between the theory that the Scripture is a book of man's fancies, and the theory that it is a record of God's acts. He evidently thinks that such errors as exist in Scripture are insignificant, and may be disregarded by ordinary readers in the presence of the great spiritual truths which the history embodies. And the Sermons, which are addressed to a rural congregation, are composed upon this principle. They do not profess to give much help in solving critical questions. Their aim is to show that the leading facts of the Scriptural history carry their own evidence with them,

and that criticism, unless it asserts an authority beyond its proper scope, cannot touch the heart of those facts. Undoubtedly, Mr. Kingsley will expose himself to the contempt of those who hold that nothing is to be received or believed except what criticism can positively certify to be true. And he, and those who think in the main as he does, are at a confessed disadvantage in not being able to say definitely how much of the Bible story is not accurately true, or how errors are to be discriminated, or upon what theory of inspiration they can account for just so much error and no more. But on these points it is better that men should expose themselves to ridicule for their want of vigour and decision than that, by hasty and ignorant assertions, they should bring discredit upon the cause of truth. If the Scriptural narrative, with all the light that history and science can throw upon it, instead of growing more and more fanciful and unreal to us, seems only to become more living, more profoundly true to human nature, more orderly and harmonious as a revelation of God, it is impossible that it should be rejected for the want of other evidence. Practically it will be believed, whatever critics may say about it. And therefore those who, themselves feeling its intrinsic truth, can expound it so as to make others feel the same kind of truth, are doing very much to maintain the cause of Scripture against destructive criticism. In this lies Mr. Kingsley's power. The old patriarchs come close to us in his pages. They are of our own flesh and blood, surrounded by a world not very different from ours: we are spiritual subjects of the same Living God who ruled over them. These men can be no heroes of romance; they must have lived, because they could not otherwise have been described.

Mr. Kingsley's Sermons are always full of modern life, of delight in natural objects, of hearty love of his country. But the Pentateuch, by its pictures of nature, by its descriptive history, and by its national character, draws out such illustrations almost more than any other part of Scripture. The following fine passage is from a sermon on "The Birth-right of Freedom:"—

Scholars have said that the old Greeks were the fathers of freedom; and there have been other peoples in the world's history who have made glorious and successful struggles to throw off their tyrants and be free. And they have said, we are the fathers of freedom; liberty was born with us. Not so, my friends! Liberty is of a far older, and far nobler house; Liberty was born, if you will receive it, on the first Easter night, on the night to be much remembered among the children of Israel—ay, among all mankind—when God himself stooped from heaven to set the oppressed free. Then was freedom born. Not in the counsels of men, however wise; or in the battles of men, however brave: but in the counsels of God, and the battle of God—amid human agony and terror, and the shaking of the heaven and the earth; amid the great cry throughout Egypt, when a first-born son lay dead in every house; and the tempest which swept aside the Red Sea waves; and the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night; and the Red Sea shore covered with the corpses of the Egyptians; and the thunderings and lightnings and earthquakes of Sinai; and the sound as of a trumpet waxing loud and long; and the voice, most human and most divine, which spake from off the lonely mountain peak to that vast horde of coward and degenerate slaves, and said, "I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt. Thou shalt obey my laws, and keep my commandments to do them." Oh! the man who would rob his suffering fellow-creatures of that story—he knows not how deep and bitter are the needs of man.

The story of Joseph, which is treated as an illustration of family life, is applied, with great felicity, to the royal marriage.

And now, my friends, if we pray—as we are bound to pray—for that great Prince who is just entering on the cares and the duties, as well as the joys and blessings of family life—what better prayer can we offer up for him, than that God would put into his heart that spirit which he put into the heart of Joseph of old—the spirit to see how divine and God-appointed is family life? God grant that that spirit may dwell in him, and

possess him more and more day by day. That it may keep him true to his wife, true to his mother, true to his family, true, like Joseph, to all with whom he has to deal. That it may deliver him, as it delivered Joseph, from the snares of wicked women, from selfish politicians, if they ever try to sow distrust and opposition between him and his kindred, and from all those temptations which can only be kept down by the Spirit of God, working in men's hearts, as he worked in the heart of Joseph. J. Ll. D.

## A GERMAN MOCK-HEROIC IN DOGGEREL.

*The Jobsiad: A Grottesco-Comico-Heroic Poem.* From the German of Dr. Carl Arnold Kortüm. By Charles T. Brooks, Translator of "Faust," "Titan," &c., &c. (Philadelphia: Frederick Leopoldt; London: Trübner & Co.)

THIS is, we believe, the first English translation of a German mock-heroic poem which was originally published in 1784, and which has passed through many editions in Germany, retaining its popularity, and even growing more and more popular. The translator informs us, in his preface, that "Carl Arnold Kortüm, the author of this unique poem—which may almost be said to form a genus by itself—was born at Mühlheim in 1745, and died as physician, at Bochum, a small town in Westphalia, in 1824, in the eightieth year of his age." He was, therefore, thirty-nine years of age when the poem was published, and he must have lived on the reputation of it for forty-one years. Nor, really, was it a bad book for an old German gentleman to chuckle over and remember that he had written. It is a kind of German "Hudibras" in stanzas; and yet not a "Hudibras" either, but rather a Spanish picaresque novel, or novel of roguery, made terse and ethical by German good sense, and told in an original kind of German doggerel. In other words, it is the story of

The Life, Opinions, Actions and Fate  
Of Hieronimus Jobs, the Candidate,  
A man who whilom won great renown,  
And died as night-watch in Schildburg Town;  
Throughout, beginning, end, and middle,  
Adorned with wood-cuts, neat as a fiddle,  
A gay historia, pithy and terse,  
Writ in new-fashion doggerel verse.

The reader will see that the hero's name is Hieronimus Jobs, and he will understand therefore why the poem is called "The Jobsiad;" but he may be puzzled by the appellation "The Candidate" affixed to Jobs's name. That, however, is soon explained. Hieronimus was the son of honest and not wealthy parents who lived in a little town of "Swaby"—i.e., Swabia. They had plenty of other children; but Hieronimus was their pride. His mother had dreamt, gossips had prophesied, and his father had been persuaded, that the boy was to be a prodigy and make a great noise in the world. So no expense is spared on his education. But the boy is a blockhead, a glutton, and a scamp; and so, when, contrary to the Rector's advice, he is sent to the University, to be trained in theology in order that he may become a parson, he does nothing but idle away his time and extort money from his father by all kinds of lying and begging letters. The time at last arrives when, as candidate for the clerical office, he has to pass his examination. He is plucked as an utter ignoramus, and his father's heart is broken. He then wanders and loafs about here and there as secretary to a nobleman, schoolmaster in an out-of-the-way parish, actor in a strolling company, and the like—sometimes in luck, sometimes out of it, and meeting adventures never very creditable—till, at last, in sheer pursuit of sufficient victual (which is his chief end in life), he comes back to his native town, and accepts the post of night-watchman. Thus, at last, he does make a noise in the world—with his horn! But ere long he dies, and there is an end of Jobs.

Such is the story; but the interest of the book depends on the mode of telling it. The translator quotes the following criticism of the "Jobsiad" from Marggraff's "House-Treasury

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of German Humour."—"The 'Jobsiad' owes the popularity which it still continues to find as well to its drastic drollery in the invention and management of characters and situations, and their ethico-historical interest, as to the circumstance that pedantry, with its innumerable absurdities (which, indeed, forms the main object of this comic poem), has not even to this day died out in Germany, and will hardly ever die out, though it should from time to time assume different forms. The treatment betrays an original *vis comica* and a naive drollery such as are at this day seldom found; nay, the comic rises sometimes even to humour, in so far as we may regard it as one of the peculiarities of humour that the poet tosses about the world, which he sees at his feet, with sovereign caprice, with an ideal whimsicality, that never suffers itself to be degraded, by the follies on which it exercises its persiflage, to the level of hypochondriacal moodiness or a schoolmaster-like pedantry." This, our readers will doubtless think, is a rather elephantine criticism, and a sufficient proof of the critic's own assertion that pedantry has not even to this day died out in Germany, in spite of all the counteraction administered by the "Jobsiad." But what the critic says, if he would say it less like a hippopotamus, is, in the main, true. The *Jobsiad* is a really droll book—not in the style of outrageous drollery, for there is never any wild or extraordinary outbreak in it of the humorous genius, and you are not required more than once or twice, as you read, to laugh outright, but in the style of grave, dry, and, as the critic says, "drastic" drollery. So far as there is a general moral or purpose, it seems to be that you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear—in other words, that, if you send your son to college and he is a blockhead, he will infallibly come back upon your hands, and only make a noise in the world at last as night-watchman of his native town, which he might have done as well at first and with less expense on his education. But, as the German critic hints, this moral goes for little; and the author is evidently throughout gravely quizzing his German fellow-countrymen, and making dry jokes at some of their ways and pedantries, though still as one of themselves who loves them dearly and would not for the world be any other than a German himself or have one of their ways and pedantries altered. The book is, in this respect, very healthy; and, as you read, you like old Kortüm, and, with the help of a black silhouette of him which the translator has prefixed to the book, you fancy him a sedate, shrewd German medico of the old school, dressed in the dignified old style, and with his hair tied in a queue behind. The translator, too, appears to have done his part extremely well, and as only a man thoroughly at home in German could have done it—which, indeed, one who had previously translated such works as Goethe's "Faust" and Jean Paul's "Titan" could not fail to be. The "Jobsiad" is, indeed, only a literary curiosity or trifle; and it must have been but a kind of amusement for Mr. Brooks to try his hand on it after "Titan" and "Faust." But, trifle as the thing is, he has done it very happily; and whoever cares to read the "Jobsiad" has it here, we should say, with all the relish that there can be in the original—the dry drollery all kept, and the effect of the queer doggerel well given, or even perhaps occasionally improved by little quirks of expression and comical liberties taken with English words and pronunciation in order to get at rhymes. A specimen or two will suffice. Here is the Rector's verdict on the boy Hieronimus when his fond parents are thinking of sending him to the University:—

"Study is clearly not his vocation;  
It were wiser to try some occupation;  
A Counsellor might of such a one be made;  
If not, it were well to put him to a trade.

"I have many a time in recitation  
Discovered with great commiseration,  
That there's nothing in him that possibly could  
Do a respected public the least mite of good."

Here is an abridgment of Hieronimus's examination before a learned committee of the Swabian clergy, when, on his return from the University, he is a candidate for the preaching office:—

The Herr Inspector he led off,  
Clearing the way with a mighty cough,  
Repeated thrice: thrice did he stroke  
His portly paunch and then he spoke:  
"I, for the time *pro tempore* Inspector  
And of the clergy present Director,  
Ask you: *Quid sit Episcopus?*"  
Straightway replied Hieronimus:  
"A Bishop is, as I conjecture,  
An altogether agreeable mixture  
Of sugar, pomegranate juice, and red wine,  
And for warming and strengthening very fine."

The Candidate Jobs this answer making,  
There followed of heads a general shaking!  
And first the Inspector said, hem! hem!  
Then the others *secundum ordinem*.

And now the *Assessor* began to inquire:

"Herr Hieronimus! tell me, I desire,  
Who the Apostles may have been?"

Hieronimus quick made answer again:  
"Apostles they call great jugs, I'm thinking,  
In which wine and beer are kept for drinking,  
In the villages; and from them oft  
By thirsty Bursches liquor is quaffed."

The Candidate Jobs this answer making,  
There followed of heads a general shaking,  
And first the Inspector said, hem! hem!  
Then the others *secundum ordinem*.

Now followed Herr Krisch at once and requested  
To know "of how many parts a sermon consisted,  
In other words, how many divisions must there be,  
When it is written ruleably?" said he.

Hieronimus, having taken a moment to determine,  
Replied: "There are two parts to every sermon;  
The one of those two parts no man  
Can understand, but the other he can."

The Candidate Jobs this answer making,  
There followed of heads a general shaking,  
And first the Inspector said hem! hem!  
Then the others *secundum ordinem*.

Herr Plotz proceeded with the interrogation:

"Can you give, Herr Candidate, an enumeration  
Of the concilia œumenica?"

And Hieronimus answered! "Sir,  
"When I at the University did study  
I was often cited before a body  
Called a council, but it never seemed to me  
To have anything to do with economy."

The Candidate Jobs this answer making,  
There followed of heads a general shaking,  
And first the Inspector said, hem! hem!  
Then the others *secundum ordinem*.

There were many questions, dogmatical,  
Polemical and hermeneutical,

To which Hieronimus made reply  
In the manner above, successively.  
And likewise many questions in philology  
And other sciences ending in *ology*,  
And whatever else to a clergyman may  
Be put on examination day.

When the Candidate Jobs his answer was making,  
There would follow of heads a general shaking,  
And first the Inspector would say hem! hem!  
Then the others *secundum ordinem*.

Hieronimus, debarred the ministry, is put, as we have said, to all sorts of shifts to earn a living. In his wanderings he comes upon a nobleman who wants a tutor for his son at eight guilders a-year. He applies for this situation; but, a preliminary examination being necessary, he has to jog off. As to the proceedings of the nobleman, after Jobs's departure, we have this information:—

His grace now right and left inquired  
Whether another could possibly be hired,  
Who for the sum of eight guilders would come  
And teach the young baron, his only son.

Whether he has found it in his power  
To obtain such a person up to this hour  
For eight guilders, I never could learn;  
In fact it's a thing wherewith I've no concern.

There are several robberies in the story—one of a nobleman who is attacked by two highwaymen in his coach:—

They immediately knocked the driver over,  
So that they thought he would never recover;  
And with violence then demanded next  
His money and other personal effects.

One of the best bits is the account of Hieronimus's experiences as schoolmaster of the poor remote parish of Ohnewitz. He has got this appointment from the nobleman just mentioned, whom he had come up in time to rescue from the highwaymen; and for a time he is in clover—the A. B. C. and other plain matters of learning required at Ohnewitz being within his range. In an evil hour, however, he becomes author—that is, he publishes a new A. B. C. book, with certain improvements upon the old one used from time immemorial in Ohnewitz. Suddenly there is a commotion among the Ohnewitzians; they petition the nobleman for the removal of the new schoolmaster; and, this failing, they rise in rebellion and cudgel him out of the parish. Of the rest of poor Jobs's adventures—involving scrapes and love-adventures like those in the well-known "Tom Jones" style of novel—we have no room to say anything. He returns at last to his native town, and is glad to accept the office of night-watchman. Then, and only then, he is the right man in the right place.

And now to old and young, as they slumbered,  
The hours of night were again musically num-  
bered,

For Hieronimus, the new  
Watchman, put his horn to his mouth and blew.  
And, whenever the clock was heard from the  
tower,

He began as follows to call the hour:

"Hark ye, gentlemen, as ye lie there still,  
And hear what I to you sing and tell:

"The clock has just proclaimed the hour,  
Twelve, one, two, three, from the old church  
tower;

Take care, if I may you advise,  
Of fire and light and your daughters likewise!

"That no one may set anything on fire,  
Or any other harm may transpire,  
Be careful, therefore, and see to 't,  
To 't, to 't, to 't, toot! toot! toot! toot!"

For the rest, he steadily conducted  
Himself as a watchman well instructed;  
Slept soundly all day long that he  
Might at night more wakeful be.

In all the time of his singing and watching  
No thief dared risk his power of catching,  
So that Schilburg was entirely free  
From all nocturnal burglary.

He dies at last of an inflammatory fever; which gives the author an opportunity of moralizing at great length on the text that "all must die," and demonstrating its truth by a learned enumeration of a great many people of all nations celebrated in history, all of whom are positively known to have died, while not one authentic instance to the contrary has ever yet been produced.

Summa Summarum, the long and the short is,  
That in none of the chronicles do we find notice  
That friend Death has ever any one passed  
Without coming back for him at last.

And what he has not eaten already  
He will not fail to remember when he's ready;  
Alas! dear reader, also thee,  
And, what is worst of all, even me!

It is somewhat curious to find a book of this odd kind—a book, we should say, suited only for leisurely reading by persons of quaint, grave tastes in the quiet of an old country-house—coming to us from across the Atlantic at such a crisis of American affairs as the present. As if to make the contrast of the publication with the element in the midst of which it is published the greater, the form of the book is made as quaint as the substance. It is printed in old type on thick, yellowish, ribbed paper; and the ludicrous wood-cuts of the original—one of which is the old traditional print of St. Luke writing his gospel, made to do duty for Hieronimus writing a letter to his father—seem carefully reproduced. Great is the vitality of humour if the "Jobsiad" should be in demand at the present moment in and around Pennsylvania. The publisher, we observe, has a German name—which may have something to do with the exit of the book from the American press at so unlikely a time; and, as for the translator's part in it—why, reader, if you were once to addict yourself to translating German

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poetry, not even the hot siege of the town you live in and the roaring of a hundred cannons round you would wean you from the occupation. A shot would take your head off while you were seeking for a rhyme; and your only regret for the accident would be that you had left the rhyme unaccomplished. Next to the life of a naturalist in the country, the happiest of calm lives is that of a translator of German poetry.

## FITZJAMES STEPHEN ON CRIMINAL LAW.

*A General View of the Criminal Law of England.*  
By James Fitzjames Stephen, M.A. (Macmillan).

MR. STEPHEN'S book is the work of a lawyer, written not merely for the members of his own profession, but for readers who are not lawyers. This fact constitutes the merit of the book. It has enabled him to keep clear of the technicalities into which a lawyer writing for lawyers always runs, and has justified him in gratifying, what is obviously his taste, the love of recurring to and discussing first principles, and of lingering at the points of contact between his subject and other departments of study and of social life. The sections on "the nature of evidence" and "the nature of belief" are an instance. He has, in reality, described the spirit in which he has written in saying that the administration of criminal law "must be viewed not merely as a trade, but as an art founded on a science—the art of making wise laws, the science of understanding and correctly classifying large departments of human conduct." Hence the book has a character of its own. It is the only complete account of the principles and administration of criminal law; and as such will prove interesting to a wide circle. Our institutions have committed the administration of criminal law to a large body of unpaid magistrates, of whom it is not too disrespectful to say that the majority have acquired only a technical knowledge of their duties, and are really guarded by the magistrate's clerk. There are excellent text-books containing the rules required for daily practice; but the more perfect the text-book the greater the sense of bewilderment felt on first opening it. Every student of law, layman or lawyer, will appreciate the advantage of a book which explains the philosophical basis or the historical origin of positions he finds laid down in text-books as first principles. This Mr. Stephen has attempted to do for his subject, with great success.

The chapter probably of most general interest, because of most novelty, is that containing a comparison between English and French criminal administration:—

Most systems of criminal procedure regard a criminal trial either as a public inquiry, in which the object is to ascertain the truth for the sake of the public interest, or they regard it as a private dispute, in which the object of the accuser is to obtain, and the object of the person accused is to avoid, the infliction of legal punishment for an alleged crime.

It would, of course, be impossible that either of these systems, and more especially the latter, should be carried out in practice with inflexible logic; but one must predominate, and give character to the procedure. Mr. Stephen distinguishes them, "for the sake of clearness, as the litigious and inquisitorial principles."

The English system of criminal procedure is almost exclusively litigious: the French almost exclusively inquisitorial. . . . An English criminal trial is a public inquiry, having for its object the discovery of truth, but thrown, for the purpose of obtaining that end, into the form of a litigation between the prosecutor and the prisoner.

Without doubt the "inquisitorial" system is in theory the true one, for the subject of inquiry is a public subject, and the interest of society in the result greater than that of the accuser or the accused. But it is doubtful whether it is the best system for discovering the truth; and it certainly does not carry

with it to the same degree the sympathies and the confidence of the community. The "litigious" system presents advantages at first sight not apparent. By assigning to a definite party—the prosecutor and his advisers—the task of proving the guilt of the accused, it allows the judge to hold his mind in suspense till the evidence is fully brought before him, and to impress the same self-restraint as a duty on the jury; it makes the judge independent of the result; and, by enlisting his sympathies in favour of equal dealing, has brought about the most striking spectacle in an English trial, the sight of

a judge, who has reached the truth by an unusual combination of power, industry, and good fortune, bending the whole force of his mind to understand the confused, bewildered, wearisome, and half-articulate mixture of question and statement which some wretched clown pours out in the agony of his terror and confusion.

The account of the French system is thus summed up:—

In order to place before our minds the character of the French system, we must suppose the attorney for the prosecution, the committing magistrate, and the counsel for the crown to stand to each other in the relation of official superiors and inferiors, and we must further suppose the counsel for the crown to be an assessor to the judge of assize. To complete the system, we must substitute for the fifteen judges a much more numerous body, scattered over the country in threes and fours, each group having under their official authority all the committing magistrates, and all the prosecuting counsel and attorneys within a wide district, and discharging themselves the functions of grand jurymen. We must also suppose the procedure to be secret until the day of trial, and the accused to be liable to close confinement, varied only by as many interrogations and private confrontations with witnesses as the judge "instructing the process" might think advisable. . . . The result of the system is the gradual elaboration of a theory on the subject of the crime, supported by a mass of evidence which has been collected and arranged by a set of public functionaries intimately connected together, and bound by all the ties of official *esprit de corps* and personal vanity to maintain the accuracy of the conclusion at which they have arrived.

These remarks are illustrated by three trials, told at considerable length, which will repay the attention not only of legal but of historical students. The method adopted by a nation in the research of truth in its judicial investigations is, of course, intimately connected with all its modes of thought. It springs from them, and in turn fixes them and gives them intensity. Thus, the modes of thought in French judicial investigation reappear in French historical investigation. And both the strength and the weakness of these modes of thought are seen more clearly in the former than in the latter case, because the events of the former are contemporary, and the conclusions definite. Take any popular French historical work—the book, for instance, now in the hands of every one, Renan's "Vie de Jésus"—and "The Case of the Monk Léotade" at the end of this volume will form a curious commentary on it. The judicial authorities in that case and Renan exhibit the same modes of thought; the same unwillingness to keep their judgment in abeyance; the same habit of framing almost at the outset a theory which ultimately becomes the criterion by which subsequent statements are admitted as true, or rejected as false.

The pages on "Appeal in Criminal Cases" will derive additional interest from the discussions of this session in Parliament on the subject. At present, in a criminal case, a verdict upon the facts is conclusive. But a method of reconsidering convictions, in cases where the judge is dissatisfied, or fresh evidence has come out after the trial, has grown up out of the exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy through the Home Secretary, who institutes such inquiries as he thinks proper.

The procedure is altogether informal. There is no open court, no examination of witnesses, no

pleading of counsel on either side, and there is not even any parliamentary supervision. In almost every other instance every minister is responsible for the advice which he gives to the sovereign; but this case forms in practice an exception.

This system has been long felt to be unsatisfactory; and from time to time cases arise which bring its anomalous character into full light. The case of Thomas Smethurst, which will be found related in this volume, was one; and the recent case of Jessie McLachlan is another still stronger. The evil is clear; but the cure is not so obvious. It has been proposed to give the right of moving for a new trial in criminal as in civil cases; but the result of this would be practically to transfer the decision from the jury to the court which granted the new trial: for the latter "would substantially predetermine the verdict of the second jury by the judgment passed on the verdict of the first." Another remedy proposed is the creation of a court of appeal. But to this there are two grave objections—first, delay would be caused by appeal in every case of importance; and, secondly, the sense of responsibility on the part of juries would be greatly diminished.

These considerations point to some modification of the present arrangement as the best remedy. The great art of constitutional administration is to retain existing forms, moulding them to suit new wants. And this maxim especially applies when we know exactly where the shoe pinches, as we know here the advantages and the faults of the jurisdiction of the Home Secretary.

The true remedy for this state of things would be to constitute a court of law charged with the duty of doing openly and judicially what the Home Secretary at present does in secret. It might be enacted that, if it appeared to the Secretary for the Home Department that, after the conviction of any person for any crime, new evidence or new reasons to doubt the truth or accuracy of the evidence actually given had been discovered, or if the judge who tried the cause were dissatisfied with the verdict, the Home Secretary might call together a court, to be composed of the judge who tried the cause, one other judge, and the Home Secretary himself, who should call before them any witnesses they pleased, and examine both them and the prisoner (if they thought fit) in open court; and also, if they thought fit, hear arguments by counsel, and finally deliver judgment, either confirming, quashing, or varying the verdict of the jury as they thought proper. In order to protect the constitutional authority of the jury, it would be necessary to provide expressly, as a condition precedent to the summoning of the court, that the Secretary of State should certify that new evidence had been discovered, or that the judge should certify that he was dissatisfied with the verdict. In this way, the prerogative of mercy would be confined to its proper function, that of mitigating the severity of punishment in particular cases. The absurdity of pardoning guilt on the ground of innocence would be done away with, and the public would know, in a definite authoritative form, on what grounds the verdict of a jury was overruled.

In conclusion, we must say Mr. Stephen deserves the gratitude of those members of his profession who practice in criminal courts. For many reasons, this branch of practice is unduly looked down upon. Nothing tends more to raise it than an attempt like this to point out the connection between the principles of criminal administration and the "broad principles of morality and politics," and to throw light from observations made in the actual practice of criminal law on the most interesting and sacred subjects of human thought.

## NOTICES.

RUSSIAN PAMPHLETS ON POLAND:—*La Russie et ses Adversaires*. Par un Français, Ami de la Russie. (St. Petersburg.)—*The Polish Question; or, an Appeal to the good sense of Englishmen*. By a Russian. (St. Petersburg.)—*La Pologne, et la Cause de l'Ordre*. (Paris.)—THE above pamphlets, partly reprinted in the *Indépendance*, the *Nord*, and other more or less Russian papers,

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deserve all the more attention, as, in the present juncture of affairs, they indicate better than all the diplomatic replies what is the Russian view of the Polish question, and of the way to settle it. The first writer simply advises Russia to treat Poland as "England treated Ireland, France Alsace, Lothringen, &c.:" that is — no special administration, but common legislation, common official language; and, in all schools and institutions belonging to the State, instruction only in Russian. If the threats of the revolution are not treated with utter contempt, nay, if concessions should be made and half-measures taken — then, the writer opines, "one of the finest jewels of the Imperial Crown would for a long time to come be dimmed by the breath of the serpent of discord" — which fine simile we remember to have heard before. — The second of the pamphlets is directed more especially to Englishmen, who are entreated to distinguish between the unfounded claims of the Poles upon the western Russian provinces (Lithuania, White Russia, the Ukraine), and the wish of all parties to see them enjoying their autonomy and their religious and civil liberties. The author regrets to find that there is so little said and written in England from the Russian point of view. All that England knows of the pending question is, he says, merely what Polish refugees tell her. He is not, he says, a partisan and defender of military despotism himself; in fact, its last upholder in Russia was the late Emperor Nicolas. He is an admirer of the reforms of Alexander II., whose liberal measures he enumerates *in extenso*, in order to show that, under him, Poland would not have to bear a despotic régime. All Russia is adverse, he asserts, to anything of the kind, since it would be sure to react on herself and hinder her own liberal progress. The "supposed cruelties of Russian troops in Poland" are "gross exaggerations on the part of the Poles and their organs." In fact, the Polish nobility in White Russia and the Ukraine have, he contends, to thank only the government if they have not been slain as yet by the peasants, as was the case in Galicia in 1812. The Poles have no right whatever to those provinces for which they now clamour: for, although Poland had conquered them in 1569, and had inundated them with Polish nobility and Polish colonists, yet the populace itself had remained Russian at heart; and if, after Russia had regained these provinces, Polish influence still kept paramount, this is to be ascribed to the clemency of the government, who had allowed the rights of the Polish proprietors over their serfs to hold good. This was the reason that, since the divisions of Poland from 1772, '93, and '95 up to 1861, an innumerable Russian population had been ruled by a Polish and Roman Catholic minority. The abolition of serfdom in 1861 has put a stop to this state of things, and the rural population has been emancipated from the Polish nationality, represented by a few landowners exclusively. The Poles, who now see that they have lost their influence on the six millions of Russians and the two millions of Lettes who live in the western provinces of Russia, try to reconquer now these provinces politically; and this, the author concludes, is the only reason why the Poles have risen against the Russian government at the very moment when this latter had bestowed freedom on its own subjects. According to this Anglo-Russian's statistics, hardly the tenth part of the population in the ten provinces which are now claimed as a Polish inheritance is Polish. An aristocratic minority — this is, in short, the author's notion — endeavours to re-enslave the bulk of the population now set at liberty by Russia." The third and last pamphlet, which is supposed to be written by one of the most prominent members of the Polish emigration — by a Polish statesman of high standing in fact — cautions the world against the danger that might arise if what now passes in Poland and the western provinces should become contagious and spread over the whole of Europe.

*Cobbett's Legacy to Lords: being Six Lectures on the History of Taxation and Debt in England. To which is added a Scheme of Substitution for Taxes.* By William Cobbett. (H. J. Trosider. Pp. 162.) — THE "Legacy to Lords" was conceived and partly written by the elder Cobbett in 1835. "I have long promised," he says in the "Political Register," "a poor man's Bible; it is half done. I have promised a legacy to Lords, which is to appear by the Feast of Saint Michael, old style; and this legacy to Lords will, I think, top up very well my miscellaneous library." He died, however, on the 18th June; and "it then devolved on me (the younger

Cobbett), as his executor, to bring it out." A chancery suit, however, postponed its appearance; and through "twenty-eight years spent in a sea of trouble, during all which the day of this publication," says Mr. Cobbett, "has been to me what those aquatic people the New Zealanders call their 'swimming hope;' and, considering its importance and merit, I may also say I have swum with the matter itself like Caesar, his roll of Commentaries in his mouth, when he thought all was lost but that." The title of the opening lecture, "What is a lord?" smacks of the elder Cobbett; and, occasionally, in the text, we come across a sentence showing his point and vigour. The "Scheme for Substitution of Taxes" the younger Cobbett says is entirely his; but it would have been more satisfactory had he told as plainly what parts of the rest of the book were the father's and what the son's. The titles of the various lectures are: "What were the feudal lords?" "When did the feudal system end?" "When did taxation begin?" "When did the debt begin?" and "Who were the murderers of King Charles I.?"

*Work for All; or, Patty Grumbler and her Grandchild. The Sister Guardian. Brave Bessie; or, the Epiphany Lesson.* By C. E. B., Author of "Amy's Watchword," &c. (Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday. 1863.) — THE story is somewhat like Mrs. Gaskell's beautiful one of "Libbie Marsh's Three Eras," which now and again, though unseen for ten years, comes back to one's mind as bright and fresh as ever, cheering one in troubles, and on to helpful work. But the authoress, less of an artist and less true to nature than the charming writer who has created our Victorian Manchester life for all time, has not been able to abstain from that judgment vice of her school, making her wilful girl break her leg and her ribs, suffer amputation, and die, because she wouldn't be confirmed, and would go out for a holiday-trip on Sunday. It is quite a pity that so good a story should be spoiled by this and other little bits of superstition. Why not have brought Sarah Dallas round to a right heart and Lizzie Reed, by some other incident or accident less than the catastrophe of death, and one more suited to her sin, or bit of temper rather? Now, do try this, C. E. B., whoever you may be. Keep your storm of death for your criminals; temper the blast to your sinners of smaller sins. The book is so good and so likely to be useful that it is sure to reach a second edition; then pray alter this blemish, and some little faults of expression — like "such a woman as her [the one] she was going to," "she is so particular who [whom] I go with," "the table and dresser were subject [ed] to sundry scrubblings," &c. The last story of Brave Little Bessie being encouraged to go and fetch the Doctor one snowy night to her fevered mother, by recollecting what she had been told about the star guiding the Wise Men of the East, is just one of those that would catch a child's fancy and make her look for her star in little troubles. The middle story we have been frightened from reading by the expression of the youth at the harmonium in the wood-cut prefixed.

*The Prayer-Book Unveiled is the Light of Christ; or, Unity without Liturgical Revision. Letters for Nonconformists, expository of the Church's Teaching, &c., addressed to the Rev. T. Binney.* By the Rev. R. Aitken, Incumbent of Pendennis, Cornwall. (Macintosh. Pp. 353.) — THIS volume treats of such subjects as the "Will of God, the Law of Christian Conduct," "the Revision of the Liturgy," "Regeneration exposed in the Light of Christ and the Word," "the Teaching of the Sacraments," &c.; and the general spirit of the book may be gathered from the following passage: "We must not come before God as men who have been grievously wronged, demanding our rights; but as those who have done wrong, entreating him, in his great mercy, to put us right. Beyond all question there have been, and there are, grievous faults on the side of Nonconformists as well as on the side of the Church. Both parties must be brought to see wherein they have erred, and both parties must humble themselves before God — that they have sinned against him, against his truth, against the spirit and precepts of Christ, and against each other; and if, through God's mercy, and by his grace, such a state of mind can be induced, there will be no difficulty which cannot be surmounted — restoring Christian unity."

*Holy Women of Old.* By Maryanne Parrot, Author of "May Chumleigh," "Scripture Stories," "The Jew," &c. (Macintosh. Pp. 244.) — AMONG "the holy women of old" our author includes "the first mother," "the mother of the chosen race," "Jacob's mother" and "Jacob's wives," "the mother of Moses," and "the Virgin Mother."

"These simple records of the lives of 'Holy Women of Old' are intended chiefly for the use of those who are engaged in the important and deeply interesting work of conducting Mothers' Meetings; the want of suitable books to read on such occasions is often complained of, and it has been the object of the writer to assist in the supply of that want." The stories are written in a devout spirit. The book, however, closes with "A woman of old who was not holy," which leaves on the mind much the same impression that a piece of music does by ending otherwise than in the key-note. Unity is thus sacrificed to variety.

*Goethe's Theaterleitung in Dresden. In Episoden und Urkunden.* By Ernst Pasqué. Two Volumes. (Leipzig: Weber.) — THIS is a valuable contribution to the life of Goethe, whom we here, for the first time, have the amplest opportunity of observing in the midst of the sorrows and joys connected with his management of the Weimar stage, between the years 1791 to 1817. A short chronological history of the Weimar Theatre up to the beginning of 1791 forms the introduction to the book. Stress is laid upon the circumstance that the first German operettas took their rise here, and that the first German opera (Wieland's "Alceste") was performed on this stage. From 1791 dates Goethe's regular administration and management of the "Weimar Court-Theatre," as which it had constituted itself already in 1757. We follow the great master in the maze of correspondences — by the hand of Kirms — with willing and unwilling, first-rate and tenth-rate, capable and stupid actors and actresses; and his diplomatic, cautious, yet very decided manner of dealing with these *difficile* ladies and gentlemen is very amusing, though it must have been anything but sport to Goethe himself. They were, however, not capricious people who irritated him most — his grief in losing Christine Neumann Becker (Euphrosyne), an unrivalled actress, by an untimely death, was deep and lasting; no less did Iffland's breaking away from his fixed engagements pain him seriously. How, after a long series of trials, he was at last driven to resign his post by Miss Jagemann's impertinences and intrigues, is one of the most characteristic passages both in the book and the poet's life. An appendix gives an account of the musicians between 1756-1832, from Joh. Ernst Bach to J. Nep. Hummel. It further contains an Alphabetical Index to the *Personnel*, 269 in number, from the 1st of January of 1784 to 1832, and a chronological register of the "Guest Performances" from 1784 to 1817, besides a contribution to the biography of Corona Schröter, and a history of the much-praised and much-blamed Wieland "Schweizer Alceste." A full, general index, both of persons and matters, concludes the whole. The book is highly entertaining and instructive; and, as a contribution to the history of the "Golden Time" of the Weimar stage, under Goethe's direction, it is most invaluable.

*Annuario Pontificio.* (Rome, 1863.) — WE shall not be expected to "review" this work; but we intend to give our readers a few extracts from its pages, and thereby endeavour to show that it is a most interesting contribution to ecclesiastical history and statistics. At the head of the entire Roman Catholic hierarchy stands Rome, whose bishop has the titles of Representative of Christ, Successor to the Prince of the Apostles, Pontifex Maximus of the General Church, Patriarch of the Occident, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, Sovereign of the Secular Government of the Roman Church. Next to him stands the College of the Cardinals, as Coadjutors and Coadjutors of the Supreme Pontifex. It consists of six cardinal-bishops, fifty cardinal-priests, and fourteen cardinal-deacons, but numbers at present only fifty-eight members. There are five Patriarchates of the Oriental Ritus with patriarchal jurisdiction — viz., three in Antiochia for the Melchites, Maronites, and Syrians, one in Babylon for the Chaldeans, one in Cilicia for the Armenians. There are, further, seven patriarchates of the Latin Ritus — viz., Constantinople, Alexandria, Antiochia, Jerusalem, Venice, West India, and Lisbon. There are 176 archbishoprics; of the 131 belonging to the Latin Rite, twelve are dependent directly from the Roman Patriarchate, 119 of these sees are endowed with church-provinces. There are 694 bishoprics — 640 of Latin, fifty-four of Oriental Rites. At this moment there are filled 646 bishoprics, with residence. Besides these, there are 234 titular bishoprics — i.e., *in partibus infidelium*; so that the total of the prelates forming the Roman Hierarchy amounts to 980. The apostolical vicariates, the delegations, and prefectures in all the parts of the world stand, as is well known,

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under the *Congregatio de Propaganda fide* in Rome. The number of vicariates is one hundred, of delegations five, of prefectures twenty, ten of which were first founded by the present Pope, who has also raised nine archbishoprics to metropolitan churches, and has created four new archbishoprics and thirty-five bishoprics, chiefly in England, Holland, and America. In Europe the Propaganda has the administration of the vicariate of the Oscanian Duchies, through the Nuntius at Munich—of North Germany and Denmark, through the Bishop of Osnabrück; it further administers Saxony, with Misnia and Lusatia, Luxemburg, Roman-Graubünden, Tessin, Scotland (three vicariates), Sweden, Herzegovina, Wallachia, Bosnia, Constantinople, Sofia, Greece, Gibraltar. The rest are spread over the whole of Asia, Africa (22), America, and Oceania (8). The oldest of living cardinals is the Cardinal-Priest Antonio Tosti, the Finance-Minister of Gregory XVI., now eighty-seven years of age; the youngest member of the College is the Cardinal-Deacon Ferretti, forty-six years old. The sum-total of the ages of the present fifty-eight cardinals amounts to 3803 years, which would give an average of sixty-five years. The greatest number of cardinals belong to Roman patrician families and the nobility of the States of the Church; a few to the Neapolitan nobility and that of Tuscany and Sardinia; Genoa, Piedmont, and Lombardy are entirely unrepresented. Of foreigners, there are now members of the College: six Frenchmen, four Germans, three Spaniards, two Hungarians, one Englishman, one Portuguese, and one Belgian. Not one member of a reigning family at this moment belongs to it. These are a few of the curious facts contained in the book before us:—a carefully-compiled ecclesiastical Almanach de Gotha, which will be hardly less interesting to posterity than it is to our own generation.

*Messe à 2 Voix. Op. 129.* Par J. L. Ellerton. (Schott & Co. Pp. 39.)—THIS work must have been written, we presume, as service-music, and is, accordingly, to be judged with reference to its practical purpose. No composer would, except for the sake of testing his power of working under difficulties, voluntarily choose to write under such narrow conditions, using only a two-voice chorus with organ accompaniment. But there must be convent-music; and, in the handling of old forms and expression of old sentiments with such limited means, there is abundant scope for showing invention and artistic resource. When these are not wanting, the very restriction serves to bring out the power of the simple elements of music. Instance Glück's writing in this style—the priestesses' choruses in the "Iphigenia." What stateliness and force, as well as beauty, there is in those simple strains! Mr. Ellerton's "Mass" bears tokens of very careful work. Here and there one notes an elaboration which rivals, though the style is entirely distinct, the minute workmanship of Spohr. In general character, however, it is free, graceful, and melodious. The phrasing and modulation are purely vocal—a quality always precious, and never more so than in music meant to be uttered by the average voices of nuns or pensionnaires. Originality in treating a subject so worn as the Christian ritual is scarcely to be hoped for. That so many hundreds of *Credos* can be written, not echoes one of the other, is one of the proofs of the infinite variability of musical form. A short setting of a text, much of which is mere dogmatic formula, must be considered rather as a piece of musical elocution than as pure music. What conceivable expression, for instance, can be put into, or got out of, such words as "Qui ex Patre Filioque procedit"? Keeping this qualification in view, Mr. Ellerton's church-music will bear comparison with the best products of the vocal, as distinct from the expressional, school.

*Pensée poétique pour le Piano.* Par Albert Lowe. (Ewer & Co. Pp. 5.)—It is a dangerous thing for a writer to write himself down poet. The claim, however modestly put, to the sacred laurel rather tends to stimulate criticism. This little piece, perhaps, would be better under another title. Its melody is bright and *suave*, and its movement unconstrained. It affects no depth of sentiment, but is a refined and neatly-finished piece of writing. The least scrap of original work is worth more than a volume of the *fantasia* manufacture which loads the counters of the music-publishers. In this sense even a *bagatelle* like this of Mr. Lowe's deserves, in its kind, recognition.

*Six Characteristic Pieces for the Piano-forte.* Dedicated to Charles Hallé. Composed by V. Ravnkilde. (Chappell & Co. Pp. 26.)—THESE

little pieces belong to the class of "Lieder ohne Worte." What else their author has written we know not; but, if his work of a more serious kind is up to a corresponding level of goodness, he must be a man of genius. The amount of thought, invention, and fancy here shown entitles him to a place in the same rank with Stephen Heller. His writing has, at the same time, in it much of the lightsome gaiety of Mendelssohn's best "Lieder," with not a little of their pathos. No. 3 of the set, "An Old Love-Song," is a sweet little melody, most captivating in its simplicity, very tender and expressive. No 1, "In the Woods at Night," is an *allegro giocoso* rendering of the topic, fresh and tuneful. Tune, indeed, that first element of music, there is here without stint. In every number the melodic thought is clear and satisfying. Any pianist who has not yet made Herr Ravnkilde's acquaintance, will, we are sure, find it an advantage to have been introduced to him.

*The Sussex Chant-Book.* A Selection of Single and Double Chants, &c., including those used at the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Eastbourne. (Wertheim, Macintosh, and Hunt. Pp. 31.)—THE plea for this chant-book, as given in the preface, is the difficulty of finding a book giving a full collection of the best standard chants of the last two centuries, and not disproportionately crowded with the comparatively valueless compositions of the compilers or other unknown people. This complaint is reasonable enough; and Mr. Chambers's collection seems to meet it as well as could be desired. The chants in his book are of the solid, firm style, proper to the purpose for which they are used. The wayward, freakish scraps of music with which indiscreet organists so often entertain their congregations, to the ruin of all effective singing, are not to be found here. We miss one or two thoroughly good chants—Purcell in D., for instance, which should be known to every congregation; but a "selection" must have its limits, and is a thing about which no two people would agree exactly. The book contains, rightly we think, no Gregorians. The chants so called are, for the most part, mock-antiques, liked more for the pretty associations suggested by the name than for any other reason.

*The Musical Herald.* A Journal of Vocal and Instrumental Music. Vol. I. Pp. 192. (B. Blake.)—AN excellent three-and-sixpennyworth, meant, evidently, to serve as a collection of what may be called the simple household music of the country, but containing things which show that the compilers have taken some pains to go to less familiar sources for their materials. One is glad to see pages of a penny periodical occupied with the music of Henry Purcell. This volume has got one of his pleasantest songs, "What shall I do to show how much I love her?"—a ditty too pretty to be shelved. The book is well printed: good bold type and stout paper.

*The Natural History Review: A Quarterly Journal of Biological Science.* Part XI. July, 1863. (Williams and Norgate. Pp. 323-478.)—THIS number of this most valued journal—which stands highest among those dealing with natural history subjects—will commend itself to all readers, more especially on account of the complete manner in which the circumstances connected with the famous *cause célèbre* of Abbeville are detailed. In addition to this we have reviews—we had almost said abstracts, so carefully are they prepared—on Dr. Carpenter's book on the Foraminifera, Professor Agassiz's contributions to the Natural History of the United States of America, Professor Huxley's "Man's Place in Nature," "The Naturalist on the Amazons," and others. The original articles are contributed by Professor Wyville Thomson, and Mr. Lubbock, the latter of whom gives an interesting account of a visit to the ancient shell-mounds of Scotland.

*A Dictionary of Chemistry.* By Henry Watts, F.C.S., Editor of the "Journal of the Chemical Society." Part V. for July. (Longman.)—THIS part embraces from "Carbon" to "Chyle," and is quite worthy of its predecessors, of which we have only been able to speak in terms of unqualified praise. Chemists, doubtless, will congratulate themselves upon the fact that it has been determined, in order to deal with the subject worthily, to extend the work to 4000 pages instead of 3000—3000 pages being found, as we read, "too narrow to include the vast and continually-increasing store of facts with which the science of chemistry is enriched." Surely chemistry is not the only science which advances! May this dictionary be suggestive, and serve, as it is worthy of doing, for a model to others!

*The Popular Science Review.* Edited by James Samuelson. No. 8. July. (Hardwicke. Pp. 451-592.)—IN this number, the late editor, Mr. Samuelson, who has conducted the journal from its commencement in such an entirely satisfactory manner, bids farewell to his readers, and resigns in favour of Dr. Lawson, professor of physiology in Queen's College, Birmingham. Among the most interesting articles we may mention those by Professor Ansted on the Physical Geography of the Ionian Isles, Mr. Gosse on the History of the Rotifera, Professor Buchanan on the Morphology of the Small Periwinkle, and that on British *Jungermannia* contributed by Miss Plues; nor must we omit to mention Mr. Hogg's paper on Colour-Blindness. Those on the Antiquity of Man and on the Telescope are of less than ordinary merit. The Scientific Summary is, as usual, full and valuable.

*S. Anselmi, Archiepiscopi Cantuariensis, "Cur Deus Homo?" Libri Duo.* (Williams and Norgate. Pp. 176.)—A clear and handy edition, price eightpence, of St. Anselm's famous dialogue, which may be in request in these days of revived theological speculation.

*Bevölkerung des Russischen Kaiserreichs in den wichtigsten statistischen Verhältnissen dargestellt.* By A. v. Buschen (Gotha: Perthes.)—THIS work, which forms part of a statistical series, in which the populations of Austria, France, Spain, and Portugal have been treated separately already, receives a special interest from the fact that the author, a member of the Statistical Central Committee of St. Petersburg, has here embodied the only remnant of the great bulk of the Society's official papers which perished last year in the flames. The several paragraphs treat of the difference of race, the numbers of the respective populations, the division of the population according to the places of habitation, as well as to sex, marriages, births, mortality, increase and decrease, differences of rank, religion, &c. Six little maps follow, showing the habitations of the Poles, the density of population, the proportion of the town-populations, the sexes, the marriages, the births, legal and illegal, the mortality, the "Government-peasants," the "Apanage-peasants," the serfs and their proportion to the general population, Non-Christians and Greek Christians, and their relative numbers. Of special interest will be found the historical observations respecting the "Little Russians," who originally formed principalities of their own, until in 1387 the formal union of "Little Russia" and Lithuania with Poland took place. 300 years later, after many and hard fights, Russia regained her ancient provinces, "Small, White, and Black Russia." In the two former (embracing the districts of Witebsk, Mohilew, Minsk, Kijew, Wolhynia, Podolia) there are now 77,443 "Great Russians," 3,117,356 "Small Russians," 1,801,953 "White Russians," 419,260 Russians of no particular designation, 254,950 Lithuanians, 667,275 Jews, and 674,144 Poles—so that only about one-fifth of the population is really Polish. The book is well-timed and carefully compiled.

*Hercule et Cacus: Etude de Mythologie comparée.* Par Michel Bréal. (Paris: Durand.)—WITH as thorough a knowledge of his subject as his own earnest application to it and the results of recent investigations by eminent masters could have furnished to the young author, he happily unites the rare gift of being able to write. His work, which contains nothing absolutely new, will prove one of the most accurate and most pleasing guides on the grand field indicated in the title. Advancing step by step, it masters and groups in the most lucid and orderly manner its vast materials. The introduction treats of myths in general, of the school of Kreuzer, of the Veda, and of the new light it has shed upon the whole subject. The "Myth of Cacus" is only chosen as an instance, as it were, of growth, development, and ramification of myths. An enumeration of the eleven paragraphs into which the work is divided may suffice to show its rich contents:—1. On the Primitive Character of the Latin Mythology and its Transformation; 2. The Latin Legend—Sancus and Cæcius; 3. The Greek Fable—Hercules and Geryon; 4. The Vedic Mythology compared with the Greek Mythology; 5. The Indian Mythus—Indra and Vritra; 6. Formation of the Fable; 7. The Iranian Mythus—Ormuzd and Ahriman; 8. The Germanic Mythus; 9. Alteration of the Mythus with Greeks and Hindus; 10. The Fable of Hercules and Cacus in the *Æneid*; 11. Résumé. We recommend this book, which has met with the warmest reception in France and Germany, most emphatically to our readers, and hope to see it soon translated by a competent English scholar.

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## PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

AINSWORTH (William Harrison). Cardinal Pole; or, the Days of Philip and Mary. A Historical Romance. Three Vols. Post 8vo., pp. 908. *Chapman and Hall*. 31s. 6d.

ARNOLD (Arthur). Ralph; or, St. Sepulchre's and St. Stephen's. Two Vols. Post 8vo., pp. 608. *Tinsley*. 21s.

BALL (John, M.R.I.A., F.L.S., &c.). Guide to the Western Alps. With an Article on the Geology of the Alps, by M. E. Desor of Neuchâtel. Cr. 8vo. With Maps, pp. cxli-377. *Longman*. 7s. 6d.

BENEDIX (R.). Der Vetter. Comedy; in Three Acts. With Grammatical Notes. 12mo. *Trübner*. 2s. 6d.

BIBLE. The Prefaces to the Early Editions of Martin Luther's Bible. Edited by T. A. Readwin, F.G.S. 8vo. Manchester: *Ireland*. *Hatchard*. 3s. 6d.

BLUNT ON THE REFORMATION, in German. 12mo., sd. *Rivingtons*. 1s.

BREWER (Rev. Dr. Cobham). Political, Social, and Literary History of France; brought down to the Year, 1863. Cr. 8vo., pp. xvii-463. *Jarrod*. 5s.

BWOTHER THAM'S CONUNDRUMS. 18mo., bds., pp. 63. *Routledge*. 6d.

CAMPBELL (Bishop of Bangor). A Charge Delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Bangor, at his Ordinary Visitation, in June, 1863. 8vo. 1s. *Rivingtons*.

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FROM its foundation in 1753 to the 31st of March, 1863, the sum of £3,339,177 has been expended upon the maintenance and collections of the British Museum. The number of visitors to the general collections at various periods of ten years apart will serve to show the progress of the institution. In 1805 the visitors were 11,989; in 1815, 34,409; in 1825, 127,643; in 1835, 289,104; in 1845, 685,614; in 1851 (the Exhibition year), 2,527,216; in 1862 (the International Exhibition year), 895,077.

# THE READER.

1 AUGUST, 1863.

THE elevation of Mr. Monckton Milnes to the peerage with the title of Baron Houghton is an event of which literature, among other interests, has a right to take cognisance. Besides being a man of wealth, and of numerous social and political connexions of the kind befitting a peer, Mr. Milnes has long had an honourable position as a real man of letters, interested in literary matters not merely as an amateur but as a working author. He has been a contributor to our periodicals; he has given to the world, at different times, several volumes of poems; and his "Life, Letters, and Literary Remains of John Keats," published in 1848, is the one recognised biography of the great poet.

By the death of the Marquis of Normanby at the age of sixty-six the country has lost a peer and a politician who was also, at one time, and in a certain way, an author. In his early life he wrote one or two fashionable novels, now forgotten. His political life took a crook about the year 1849, when he was ambassador at Paris, and when France was a republic. Till then he had ranked as a Liberal peer; but at that time he conceived a strong personal disgust for continental Liberalism, and Italian Liberalism in particular. He willingly represented, and perhaps over-represented, at Paris the then policy of the British government in Italian matters, which gave the French government to understand that, in fitting out their expedition for the suppression of the Roman government and the restoration of the Pope, they had the full sanction and approval of Great Britain. From that date onwards he became more and more the advocate of reaction and despotism, Papal and Bourbonist, in Italy; and it is by his latest feats in this capacity that he will be longest remembered.

MR. W. Y. SELLAR, Professor of Greek in the United College of St. Salvator and St. Leonard, St. Andrew's, has been unanimously elected Professor of Humanity in the University of Edinburgh, in the place of Professor Pilans.

MR. IRVING of Hyde Park Square, who amassed a splendid fortune in Australia, collected 237 specimens of birds, twelve of mammals, four boxes of insects, and thirty-five varieties of eggs. These he wished to present to his native city, Carlisle; but he made it a condition that the town should provide a museum to hold them. The council were wise enough not to accept an elephant without his keep, lest, like the poor man who won one in a raffle, they might find it a bad bargain. Other provincial towns treated the offer in the same way. "At length," says the *Guardian*, "Mr. Irving, tired out by the apathy of provincial corporations, determined to distribute his curiosities amongst his friends, who have been calling upon him for the last few days to make their selections. Some of the specimens are very valuable, and it is said that the British Museum offered fifty guineas for one pair of ducks."

THE public opening of the Alexandra Park, Muswell Hill, was celebrated on Thursday and Friday week with a horticultural show and an archery competition. On each day the grounds were well attended. At present much requires to be done to make the place attractive, if it is intended to enter into competition with the Crystal Palace at Norwood, which is now in its greatest beauty, a fairy-land of flowers.

SATURDAY last was Election-Saturday at Eton College—a day in the eyes of old Etonians scarcely less to be honoured than Speech-Day itself; but modern innovations have shorn it of much of what gave it importance, and, amongst other things, have swept the speeches away by which the last Saturday in July was wont to be inaugurated. The attendance of the parents and friends of the 800 boys now in the school was quite as numerous on this occasion as usual, though the weather was far from promising; and the proceedings went off well. The chief attraction of the day was the regatta, or procession of Eton boats on the Thames. The school broke up yesterday. The lower boys return on September 23; the fifth form on September 24; and the sixth form on September 25.

MESSRS. WALTON AND MABERLY announce for publication in November the first part of a "History of the World from the Earliest Records to the Present Time," by Philip Smith, B.A., one of the Principal Contributors to the Dictionaries of Greek and Roman Antiquities, Biography, and Geography—something on the plan of Sir Walter Raleigh's "History of the World," condensed enough to keep the book within a reasonable size, but yet so full as to be free from the dry baldness of an epitome.

DR. NIXON, who is now in England on leave of absence from his diocese, will formally resign the

bishopric of Tasmania on the 19th of August. The gross income of the see is £1400 a-year—£1000 derived from colonial funds, and £400 from the Colonial Bishops' Fund in London. The diocese at present is administered by some seventy clergymen, and includes Van Diemen's Land and Norfolk Island, with an extent of 27,000 square miles, and a population of about 80,000.

THE perforation of the Mont Cenis Tunnel is progressing most vigorously. The new machines, first introduced in 1861, worked, in the month of March of that year, a distance of 9 mètres and 70 centimètres. In April the figures rose to 17 mètres, 50 centimètres. The result of the whole year 1861 was 170 mètres, 54 centimètres, in 209 work-days. In 1862 the engines were so far improved as to be able to be worked for 325 days, during which a progress of 380 mètres was achieved. It thus follows that the whole work, supposed at the outset to take five-and-twenty years, will be accomplished in much less than twelve. With respect to the cost, the metre does not exceed an outlay of 4000 lire, which, for the whole gallery—12,220 mètres long—will make about 50 millions. At the end of last year the gallery had reached the length of 2199 mètres—i.e., 1274 mètres on the side of Bardonnèdre, and 925 on that of Mondane; but on the latter only the ordinary instruments had hitherto been employed.

FOUR great Boulevards will be inaugurated in Paris on the 12th of August—viz., the Boulevard Latour Maubourg, Boulevard Passy, Boulevard Beaujon, and the right river-side of the Boulevard de Sebastopol.

THE annual and solemn sitting of the French Academy, which took place last week, was presided over by St. Marc Girardin, as Director. He was assisted by Prince Albert de Broglie, Chancellor, and M. Villemain, Perpetual Secretary. The report was presented by M. Villemain, and the discourse of the Prix Monthyon was delivered by St. Marc Girardin. The subject of the prize-poem was "La France dans l'extrême Orient." The successful candidate was M. V. de Bornier. The prize for eloquence, the subject of which was "Étude littéraire sur le Génie et les Écrits du Cardinal de Retz," was divided between M. Topin and M. Michon. The annual meeting of the Académie des Inscriptions took place on the 31st of July. On the 1st of August the five academies hold their joint meeting, on which occasion the great prize of 20,000 francs for two years will be awarded.

GIRARDIN is, we hear, busy correcting the sheets of a book entitled "Question de Presse," in which he has collected all the materials for the defence of his famous "Thèse" of the liberty of the press. Another more important volume will appear somewhat later, under the title "Liberté de la Presse"—a collection of edicts, *ordonnances*, decrees, laws, *arrêts*, reports, *exposés*, &c., and verdicts given in the matter of the press, printing-offices and libraries in general, with a chronological list and an analytical register of all condemnations pronounced up to 1863 for crimes and contraventions of "printed thought."

THE *Journal de Genève* contains the following from a Paris correspondent:—"La Vie de César, par Louis Napoleon," is printing at this moment. There can be no further doubt about it; and I am in possession of information from the Imperial printing-office to the effect that a first impression, consisting of one hundred copies, has been struck off, in which the necessary alterations are being made at this time. Workmen have been selected for this purpose who have been employed in the office for many years; and they have been told that on the slightest indiscretion on their part they will lose their places. After the printing of each leaf in quarto every form is secured with three chains and three locks, the keys of which M. Petitin, the director of the printing-office, takes with him. As soon as the printing is completed, the sheets are taken into the emperor's cabinet; then the *collaborateurs* set to work correcting the press, or altering such passages as the emperor wishes to see redone. You see that measures are pretty well taken against any information reaching foreign papers—a subject of great dread with the author. The work, it is further said, will appear in a few months, and in two editions—one printed at the imperial printing-office, the other at Plon."

AN International Bird-Show, "Exposition d'Oiseaux et Volatiles vivants de toutes Espèces, Français et Étrangers," will take place at Enghien, near Paris, from the 16th to the 31st of August next.

At the ensuing Fête de l'Empereur a grand innovation will be introduced. A brilliant public

and gratuitous *bal* is to be given in the Palais d'Industrie, at which all Paris will be present.

A NEW work by Cousin "On the Alexandrian Schools" is in preparation.

A NEW volume by Ed. Fournier, entitled "Molière au Théâtre et chez lui," has left the press.

MGR. PLANTIER, the Archbishop of Nîmes, is preparing a refutation of Renan's "Vie de Jésus."

BULWER LYTTON's "Strange Story," in French, forms the 580th to the 585th volumes of the "Bibliothèque Choisie," published at Naumburg.

THE ninth volume of the "Monuments de l'Histoire de France: a Catalogue of Sculptures, Paintings, and Engravings referring to the History of France and Frenchmen, from 1559-1589," has just left the press.

IN an extraordinary general meeting of the Institute of France, held last week, M. Oppert has been declared the successful candidate for the great prize of the Emperor, awarded to M. Thiers two years ago. His unsuccessful rival was M. Mariette.

THE Prize Essay (Latin verse) for the Paris Lyceums will, we understand, have for its subject "Poland in the year 1863."

THE Director of the Imperial Printing-office in Paris has, through the intermission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, been ordered to prepare a special printing-office for the use of the Abyssinian Missionaries; and the casting of new type for the new establishment—to be taken from the Imperial types—is vigorously proceeded with.

THE first volume of Moritz Carrière's "Art in its Relation to the Development of Human Culture and the Ideals of Humanity" has appeared. It embraces "Oriental Art" up to the Alexandrine period. Its special title is "Beginnings of Culture: the ancient East in Religion, Poetry, and Art."

THE "Concilium Generale" of the Königsberg University have unanimously resolved to honour Dr. Möller, their eminent medical Professor,—whom the present Prussian Ministry have thought fit to prosecute on account of his political opinions, and even to prevent in the meantime from continuing his scientific lectures at the University,—with a "full and warm vote of confidence."

AN "Atlas for the Geography of Industry and Commerce," by Professor Klun of Vienna and Dr. Lange in Leipzig, is in the course of preparation. It is intended to be issued in five instalments, and is to consist of sixteen sheets.

UNDER the heading "Gedichte von Charles Kingsley, aus dem Englischen übertragen von Karl Vollheim," a recent number of the *Deutsches Museum* contained a considerable number of the Rector of Eversley's poems in German, which, we presume, were given as specimens of a translation of his collected poetical works. We will quote the first and last stanzas of "The Sands of Dee," and the first of the "Three Fishermen":—

"O Mary geh' und treib' das Vieh nach Haus,  
Und treib' das Vieh nach Haus,  
Und treib' das Vieh nach Haus  
Quer durch den Sand des Dee!"  
Der Westwind, feucht von Schaum, blies wild und graus,  
Und ganz allein ging sie.

Sie ruderten durch den rollenden Gischt,  
Den grausen kriechenden Gischt,  
Den grausen kriechenden Gischt  
In ihr Grab am Meere sie:  
Doch hört mit ihrem Vieh sie noch wer fischt  
Durchziehn den Sand des Dee.

Drei Fischer fuhren westwärts ins Meer zum Zug,  
Ins Meer zum Zug, als die Sonne schwand;  
Jeder dachte der Frau deren Herz für ihn schlug,  
Und die Kinder sahen ihnen nach vom Strand,  
Denn der Mann hat Last und die Frau hat Noth,  
Und wenig verdient sich, und mancher will Brodt  
Ob des Meeres Flut auch brandet.

GREAT preparations are being made in Germany for the proper celebration of the anniversary of the Battle of Leipsic. The prominent features of the programme, as hitherto settled, are as follows:—On the 19th of October, at 6 o'clock a.m., Reveille and ringing of all the bells. 9 o'clock, service in the festively-decorated churches. 12 o'clock, "Te Deum" sung by all the Singing-Leagues present in the open market. Evening, in the theatre, representation of "William Tell." Illumination of public buildings and squares, lighting of October fires on the surrounding hills. 19th of October, nine o'clock a.m., festive procession, consisting of the guests of the town, the corporations, leagues, and associations, and all the people wishing to join in it, to the place selected for the erection of the monument at a

# THE READER.

1 AUGUST, 1863.

future period, between Stöckeritz and the Thonberg; the foundation-stone will be laid then. The procession then proceeds to the place of the former "Outer Grimma Gate," where the Königsberg Landwehr entered the town on the 19th of October, 1813, under Friccius, and where a monument in honour of this "Landwehr" will be uncovered. Two o'clock, festive dinners in various places. In the evening, torchlight procession. Besides this, the "Association for the Celebration of the 19th of October" will inaugurate on the 19th a monument near the bridge blown up by "Napoleon, the fugitive." It may not be superfluous to add that none of the German governments have as yet thought fit to reply to the invitation of the Saxon government to take part in the celebration of this national festival.

A FURTHER instalment of the fourth edition of August Koberstein's most excellent history of German Literature—wrongly designated a "Grundriss," has appeared. This may all the more be considered an event, as the first instalment of this edition was issued in 1847. This is certainly the most complete and thoroughly conscientious guide in the field indicated.

OTTO LUDWIG, the well-known German novelist, has transformed a story of his called "Heiterethi" into a drama in three acts—"Stone and Steel"—which was given for the first time last week in Vienna, and had an immense success.

AMONG the curious autographs on view in the "Exhibition of Documents of the time of Frederic the Great and the Wars of Liberation," now held at Berlin, there is seen an autograph *Cabinet-Ordre* of Frederic, dated 6th of June, 1740, addressed to the Consistorialrath at Reinbeck on the subject of the appointment of Wolf, the philosopher, to a chair at the University of Halle, which, with the king's sovereign contempt for orthography—not renderable in English—runs as follows:—"I beg him [you] to take some pains about this Wolf, a man who searches the truth and loves it, must among all human society be held in high esteem, and I believed that he [the addressed Councillor] has made a *conquête* in the land of truth, if he *persuades* the Wolf hither—Friderich." The italicized words, not being good German, the king wrote in English, not in Gothic characters. There is also a despatch addressed to President Ammon in Dresden, dated Dec. 1, 1740, which is written in ciphers, and runs as follows:—"You must try to discover whether there are any designs upon Bohemia and Silesia. Take care not to mix up the true and false, and do not give rumours and suspicions as facts. Sig. V. Podewils," which has the following postscript from the king's own hand in French:—"I am very well satisfied with you; and if you continue so you will make your fortune. I shall send you subventions from time to time. Be active, watchful, and have the eyes of a lynx."—After the 1st of June, 1737, the king never signed otherwise than "Federic."—Characteristic is also the following letter of Gneisenau:—" . . . At the slightest attempt to escape, he (Napoleon) will be imprisoned for life. . . . He shows himself very wroth at all this. . . ."—Among the curious prints there is also a very curious unique—the only existing copy of the oldest Berlin newspaper, dated 1717. The *Berlinische ordinaire Zeitung* was the predecessor of the *Vossische Zeitung*.

It has been calculated that, since the promulgation of the new "Press-Ordonnanz" in Prussia, no less than forty-nine papers have received a first, and eight a second warning, of the effects of which one has died already. Out of the whole number of fifty-seven warnings, twelve have been addressed to Berlin papers.

THE "Historical Society of Upper Bavaria" has lately been presented—for their annual dinner—with filberts somewhat above 1500 years old. They were found in the neighbourhood of Traunstein, under a stratum of peat ten feet thick.

THE first volume of a biographical sketch of Garibaldi, in German, under the title "The Sword of Italy," by Gustav Rasch, has just been published. It embraces the period of the hero's life up to the capitulation of the Triumvirate and the fall of Rome. The author, full of the most glowing enthusiasm for Garibaldi, with whom he seems to have spent a considerable time, thinks him also a far-seeing statesman. If the book does not exactly exhaust the subject from the point of historical criticism, it is still one of the most readable and best compiled that have appeared as yet.

AN "International Pleasure Trip" is announced from Vienna to Florence, Rome, Naples, Pompeii, and Herculaneum. It will be limited to 150 persons, and will start on the first of September. The

whole journey is to last twenty-four days, and the stay in the principal Italian towns will not exceed the number of fourteen days. The whole tour will be made by rail, except the part from Genoa to Civita-Vecchia, where special steamers are chartered for the company. Three hundred florins is the price of a return ticket (second class), which will include provisions.

NOVELTIES in the German drama are—"The King's Governess," by Putlitz, a historical "Genre-Picture," in one act; "The Chancellor of Worms," a drama, by Rudolf von Reibisch; "The First Wrinkle," a comedy, by Alfred Tonsé, a pseudonymous Ensign in a Prussian Grenadier Regiment; "Maria of Brabant," a drama in verse, by another son of Mars, Albert Guzman, Lieutenant in the Austrian army; and "The Man of Tact," a comedy, by Mautner.

KING OTHO of Greece is, we hear, about to seek rest "from his cares of government and other sad experiences" in Bamberg; and he has promised to aid the local theatre so considerably that a *Dramaturg*, Victor Herzenskrone of Munich, has been appointed by the director, and great things will soon be heard of.

BARON TAUCHNITZ announces the 660th volume of his "Collection of British Authors, copyright edition." It contains the "Sunbeam Stories."

DR. AHLFELD is editing a "Luther Library," consisting of a selection from Luther's works.

LOUIS BÜCHNER's work, "Kraft und Stoff," has been translated into French from the seventh German edition, under the title "Force et Matière: Études philosophiques et empiriques de Sciences naturelles."

IN the annual report of the Berlin Royal Theatre we find recorded for the past year performances of 71 tragedies, 76 dramas, 194 comedies and farces. Of new plays, there were 3 tragedies ("Hermann der Cherusker," by Köster, "Die Niebelungen," by Hebbel, and "Socrates," by Eckardt), 2 dramas ("Waldemar," by Putlitz, "One is Weeping, the other is Laughing," after Dumanoir), 6 comedies (among which "The Strangers," by Benedix, "The Novices," by Schücking and Moser), 1 farce ("Beloved or Dead"). Shakespeare was represented in 29 performances, Schiller in 26, Goethe in 11, Lessing in 12, Kleist in 8, Uhland in 2, Iffland in 2, Raupach in 16, Töpfer in 31, Guzkow in 9, Hebbel in 7, Charlotte Birch-Pfeiffer in 8, Benedix in 34, Bauernfeld in 7, Brachvogel in 3, Hackländer in 7, Hersch in 4, Putlitz in 9, Molière in 5, Scribe in 7, Moreto in 4.

AN imposing Singing-festival, which was to be held at Wellehrad, a small village in Bohemia, on the thousandth anniversary of the introduction of Christianity by the Apostle of the Slaves, Cyrillus, who in 862 there built the first church, and for which the grandest preparations were being made, has been prohibited by the government for political reasons.

AMONG recent Italian works we notice—"Storia della letteratura Italiana," by C. P. Sanfilippo, in three volumes; "Giornale della difesa di Gaeta," by P. Quandel; "Collezione di Opere inedite e rare riguardanti la Sicilia," raccolte e pubblicate per G. M. Mira; "Ugo Foscolo, Biografia con ritratto," by G. de Castro.

A NEW secret weekly has made its appearance in Rome, under the title of "Roma o Morte."

No less than about twenty thousand men, we learn from Russian sources, are required at this present moment as a safeguard for the Petersburg-Warsaw railway. At every bridge there is stationed a military camp of between 600 to 1000 men; and the whole length of the rails is watched by patrols marching up and down from station to station.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Anonymous Communications cannot be inserted.)

### THEOLOGICAL CRITICISM.

To the Editor of THE READER.

SIR,—Now that you have brought up modern criticism to the notice of English readers by your critiques on Mackay's "Tübingen School" and Renan's "Vie de Jésus," I think it is necessary for a due appreciation of the science of critical and historical theology that you should let them know the results of their opponents. Of course in this short letter I would not attempt to do this, but only to point out the principal modern works in answer to the Rationalist theories.

It must be understood that at Tübingen there is a Catholic faculty, and a man quite as widely known as Baur is professor of theology there—viz., Kuhn. His "Katholische Dogmatik" is a noble piece of writing, showing how faith and

reason may be reconciled;—it may be here mentioned that the philosophy of Franz Baader is now very popular in the south of Germany, and this was his object also.

Molitor's "Philosophie der Geschichte" is a work that should be read by all who would gain a good knowledge of the Jewish writings of the periods before and after the birth of Christ; but, in order to have a compact, comprehensive view of modern German Catholic philosophy, a small brochure—"Wissenschaftliche Richtungen auf dem Gebiete des Katholicismus," by Schmid, recently published at Munich—may be studied with advantage. In answer to Renan, I should say nothing could be better than Döllinger's "Kirche zum Zeit der Gründung," a masterpiece, written a year or two ago, in order to place on a firm basis a sound Catholic view of the rise and progress of Christianity. In fact, it answers Strauss's "Leben Jesu" and Baur's work. Döllinger's "Jew and Gentile," recently translated into English, gives a very complete view of the state of Jewish philosophy, as well as the various Pagan systems in vogue at the time immediately previous to the birth of Christ. I must mention that Kuhn's philosophy has been ably attacked by Kleutgen and Clemens, who defend the scholastic against modern systems. In fact, these are the two parties in Germany at the present day. In France Rationalism has a learned opponent in Maret, a worthy successor to Lamennais, but a better regulated mind. In England the scholastic party may be said to be Ward, Ullathorne, and Wiseman, the modern party, Renouf and Sir John Acton—the former represented by the *Dublin Review*, the latter by the *Home and Foreign Review*. This periodical is exceedingly interesting for its very perfect criticisms of modern German literature, and its general liberal opinion.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

A. B. C.

## SPINOZA'S "TRACTATUS THEOLOGICO-POLITICUS."

To the Editor of THE READER.

Moffat, Dumfriesshire, N.B.

SIR,—I have only now seen the *North British Review* for May, and have read in it a very able paper on "M. Saisset and Spinoza." In a note to that article I find the following words:—"This celebrated exegetical and critical work is now translated into English under its title of 'Tractatus Theologico-Politicus,' &c. The mistake contained in these words—a mistake shared in by every reviewer of the work whose criticism has met my eye, from the early notices of the book by Professor Arnold in *Macmillan's Magazine* for June, p. 246, and that, by whomsoever written, in *THE READER*, Vol. 1., p. 61, to the notable quarterly which prides itself justly on its metaphysical papers—may be rectified by stating that the work is *not now for the first time* translated into English in the edition issued in 1862. I have a translation of the work in my library, of which the following is the precise title—viz., "A Treatise partly Theological, and partly Political, containing some few Discourses, To prove that the Liberty of Philosophizing (that is, Making Use of Natural Reason) may be allowed without any prejudice to Piety, or to the Peace of any Commonwealth; And that the Loss of Public Peace and Religion itself must necessarily follow, where such a Liberty of Reasoning is taken away. John Epist. 1st, chap. 4th, v. 13th—'Hereby know we, that we dwell in God, and God in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.' Translated out of Latin. London. Printed in the Year 1689."

That all writers on philosophical subjects are not so ill-acquainted with the bibliography of the works of Spinoza as the critics above noted may be seen from the following extract from a letter written to me by Mr. G. H. Lewes in August, 1856, when he was engaged on a complete edition of Spinoza's works for Mr. Bohn (which, however, has not yet appeared):—"Thank you for the offer of your copy of 'Tractatus'—the translation I know." I may further mention that, in a periodical issued some eighteen years ago, entitled "The Library of Reason," an abstract of the work appeared, as did an epitome in the *British Quarterly* about twelve years since. Perhaps this note on bibliography may not be altogether unwelcome to those who would like to trace the influence of Spinozism on British toleration; and therefore I crave its insertion in *THE READER*.

I am, &c.,

SAMUEL NEIL,

(Author of "The Art of Reasoning," &c., &c.)

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## NEW CHORAL-BOOKS.

To the Editor of THE READER.

SIR,—Agreeing, as I do in the main, with "R. B. L." in the opinions he expresses in his notice of "New Choral-books" in THE READER for July 18, I yet venture to offer the following few remarks upon some of his observations:—

1. In the "Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship" "R. B. L." takes exception to Mr. Turle's setting of the tune generally sung to "Jerusalem the Golden," as well as to his having put it to the hymn "For thee, O dear, dear country." But it would appear, from his note to the tune, that Mr. Turle had communicated with the composer, who objected to its being put to any other hymn than that for which it was written. And, as to the setting of the tune, it is certainly precisely the original setting as published by Novello, except only that Mr. Turle has, judiciously as I think, substituted the more familiar form of three minims in the bar for the now very unusual mode of three semibreves in the bar. It is to be hoped that those who have altered the tune into common or "alla capella" time, to adapt it to the sentiment of "Jerusalem the Golden," did so with the sanction of the composer. It has been aptly suggested that Handel would have knocked down any man who, without permission, took such a liberty with any composition of his.

2. If it be indeed true that Wheall composed his popular tune for the chimes of one of the churches in Bedford, then he must, of course, have written it in common time; and no doubt that would be the preferable rhythm. But surely the tune is not now "usually given in common time." I have many tune-books, of many dates, down to the present year; but I look for Bedford in common time in vain, except in "Hymns Ancient and Modern."

3. As to the authorship of "Adeste fideles," I think "R. B. L.'s" memory must fail him. I have not the *Musical Times* by me; but I presume he alludes to an article by Vincent Novello's daughter, Mrs. Cowden Clarke, who, I remember, distinctly attributes that tune to John Reading, and adds the information, that her father's arrangement of it for the Portuguese chapel, of which he was the organist, was performed at the ancient concerts, under the patronage of the Duke of Leeds.

4. The tunes of "Hymns Ancient and Modern" were not edited by Dr. Monk, the organist of York Minster, but, as the title-page of the book declares, by "William Henry Monk, organist and director of the choir at King's College, London." There is a great deal that is beautiful and commendable in Mr. Monk's book; but the author of the very sensible preface to the "Anglican Chant Book" could never have tolerated the absurdity of chanting metrical hymns, or lent himself to the whimsical conceit of reviving, for the purposes of congregational singing at the present day, the happily forgotten mediæval barbarisms in music which now present themselves, as ugly blots, stereotyped upon the pages of "Hymns Ancient and Modern."

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

July 21, 1863.

HYMNOLOGUS.

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

To the Editor of THE READER.

SIR,—Notwithstanding the withdrawal for the present of the Bill for the alteration of our standards by the adoption of the metrical system, the subject has not lost its interest, as Mr. Ewart has given notice of a new Bill next Session. But is it certain that the adoption of the metrical system is the only and best way to obtain the benefits of decimal reckoning? There are two objects sought: one—and assuredly the most important—that of obtaining an improved system for home use; the other, that of facilitating foreign transactions by adopting the metrical system.

In the hope that the following scheme would conduce to these two purposes, without so great a revolution in our ideas or so much difficulty in bringing it about as the adoption of the metrical system would involve, I venture to present it to yourself and your readers.

The metre, at present = 3.2808992 ft.

= 1.0936331 yards

—which numbers are, to all intents and purposes, incommensurate.

But let our yard be increased by one twenty-fourth part and the value becomes one metre = 1.0498877 such yards, which may be stated, sufficiently near for all ordinary commercial purposes, as

100 metres = 105 yards.

The third part of such yard might be called a *span*, which would be exactly twelve and a half inches long—of this hereafter. The name *span* rather than foot is suggested to prevent mistakes. The yard of three spans might be called for the same reason the *span-yard*. The process of converting long, square, and cubic metres into span-yards would be simply that of adding 5 per cent. once, twice, or thrice as required. To take an example. Let it be desired to know the value of 76.4 metres.

76.4 long, square, or cubic metres.  
1st, add 5 per cent. 3.82

= 80.220 long span-yards.

2nd, add 5 per cent. 4.011

= 84.231 square span-yards.

3rd, add 5 per cent. 4.211

= 88.442 cubic span-yards.

The absolute values of these quantities, carried to five places of figures, are respectively, 80.221, 84.236, 88.444. The extraordinary approximation is at once apparent, and the labour of calculation is a minimum. Moreover, we have only altered by 4 per cent. our notion of the reckoning of length.

If we consider now the *span* as to its home use, it answers, in the first place, generally for the foot, and may be converted at once into feet at a discount of 4 per cent. It also consists of 100 eighths of inches. The decimal system is thus ready-made; but the inch is not interfered with, and every measurement with which we are familiar in inches and eighths has actually a place, easily ascertained, upon the rule.

5000 spans would make a mile, differing only 24 yards from the present: which mile would be six-sevenths of the nautical mile. The error involved in this statement is less than a mile in the diameter of the earth. 200 spans would be the side of a square acre, differing only by an area of 13 feet square from the present acre. The road of 10,000 feet, and the perch of 250, would be measured without recourse to the Gunter's chain being necessary.

With regard to measures of weight and capacity, the present subdivision of the gallon and pound by the binary scale might be with advantage retained, at any rate at first; but all larger measures should be reckoned in tens, hundreds, and thousands of gallons or pounds—should a conciliation of our standards with the metrical system be desired, since 2 gallons so nearly equal 9 litres, and 20 pounds weight 9 kilogrammes, that a change of less than 1 per cent would render these ratios exact; this appears to point out the change most convenient to make.

With respect to money, it would be very desirable to retain the subdivision by four of the penny, or whatever coin is taken, as the lowest element in the decimal scale. It may, however, be observed that it is not necessary to wait for legislation to realize a large instalment of the benefit of the decimal system.

If, in making out our accounts, we reckon all prices by pounds and pence, omitting altogether the column of shillings, we shall find the advantage of the decimal system apply to the whole operation on the pence. The pounds will, of course, take care of themselves, and the column of pence, amounting perhaps to several thousands, will be easily converted into pounds and odd pence, or into pounds, shillings, and odd pence once for all, instead of introducing a troublesome reduction from the duodecimal into the vigesimal scale—that is, from the twelfth of the shilling to the twentieth of the pound at every step. The farthings might be treated in a similar way, in which case they might be written 1', 2', 3', instead of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{2}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ . Coins of tenpence and twentypence would facilitate such a method in actual use; but accounts may be kept in it without any alteration of the coinage.

Your obedient servant,

F. C. PENROSE.

## SCIENCE.

### THE ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

THE Archeological Institute commenced their annual congress on Tuesday last at Rochester under highly favourable auspices, there being an unusually large attendance of the members and friends of the Institute, including the Marquis Camden, K.G., President of the Kent Archeological Society, the Earl of Darnley, Earl Amherst, Lord Leigh, Mr. Beresford Hope, the Rev. Professor Willis, and several of the most distinguished archaeologists of the country. The

opening meeting of the Institute was held in the Guildhall, a fine building, which was enlarged and beautified at the expense of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, who formerly represented the city. This, as well as the various other public buildings in the city, has been placed at the disposal of the Institute during its sitting. The chair was occupied by the Marquis Camden, who, in opening the proceedings, expressed the pleasure he felt in taking part in the proceedings of the Institute in the ancient city of Rochester, so rich in archaeological remains, and anticipated great pleasure from the paper promised by so distinguished an individual as Professor Willis, on Rochester Cathedral. And, the welcomes having been disposed of, the meeting was addressed by the Bishop of Rochester, Lord Leigh, and other gentlemen, after which the members of the Institute commenced their labours by inspecting the chief objects of antiquity lying within the city. The sites of All Souls' chapel and St. Clement's church were first visited; after which the ancient Crown Inn, immortalized by Shakespeare, and now about to be demolished to make way for a modern hotel of the same name, occupied their attention. The visitors then inspected the sites of the ancient gates of the city and its massive walls, considerable portions of which are still standing and show the enormous strength of their construction. They afterwards inspected the ancient Danish, or, more probably, Roman mound, at the base of the castle, termed Boley-hill, and paid a brief visit to the ancient Satis-house, so named by Queen Elizabeth on her visit to the mansion, in which the present Archbishop of Canterbury was born. The city walls were then traced, and the party spent some time in exploring other objects of antiquity with which the city abounds. The Institute held a sitting at the County Court on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of the Marquis Camden, when a paper was read by Mr. Bennett on Beyham Abbey, the architectural features of which beautiful structure, now a ruin, were pointed out. This was followed by a paper, contributed by Mr. Foss, F.S.A., on Legal Archaeology, with a sketch of several of the most legal celebrities connected with Kent, from the earliest times down to a recent period. In the course of his remarks Mr. Foss dwelt on the extreme antiquity of many of our law-names and customs, some of which, still in use, had their origin as far back as the reign of Edward the Elder. After a sketch of the antiquity of the terms Hilary, Easter, and Trinity, as well as the courts of law, and the dresses of the judges and barristers, Mr. Foss alluded to the first public trial of which we have any record, that in which Lanfranc was the plaintiff, which took place on Pennerden Heath, Kent, and lasted three days. Mr. Foss then gave a sketch of most of the celebrities of Kent who had risen to eminence as chancellors or judges, and remarked that no fewer than fifteen archbishops of Canterbury and seven bishops of Rochester had attained to the dignity of Lord High Chancellor. At the meeting of the section of Early History and Mediæval antiquities at the Guildhall yesterday, papers were contributed by Mr. Burt, on "Roger de Leybourne, and his Share in the Barons' War," and by the Rev. H. M. Searth on the recent Roman discoveries at Uriconium. This latter paper gave rise to an interesting discussion, in which Mr. Roach Smith, Mr. Beresford Hope, and the Rev. Mr. Searth took part. The concluding paper was read by Dr. E. Guest, Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, "On the Landing of Julius Caesar in Britain." The afternoon of Wednesday was devoted to a visit to Cobham Hall, the seat of the Earls of Darnley, after a previous inspection of the fine collection of brasses extant in the recently restored church at Cobham, the whole of which are commemorative of the once powerful baronial family of Cobham. The adjoining ancient hospital, founded in 1392 by John, Baron Cobham, was also inspected. The principal points of interest in Cobham Hall, a magnificent Elizabethan structure, portions of which were built from the designs of Inigo Jones, is the elegant music-hall, pronounced by George IV. to be "the finest room in England," and the remarkably fine collection of paintings, including some of the choicest works by Vandyke, Guido, Rubens, Salvator Rosa, Titian, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Holbein, and some other painters of less note. The members of the Institute spent a considerable time in exploring the contents of the hall, which possesses many archaeological features of considerable interest. Mr. G. Scharf, F.S.A., secretary to the National Portrait Gallery, acted as guide to the party, and gave a description of the various paintings. On Thursday the Institute visited Malling Abbey, Leybourn Castle, and some other

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objects of interest in the neighbourhood of Rochester, partaking of a *déjeuner* at the Wilderness, Knole, the seat of the Marquis Camden. The valuable paper which had been promised by Professor Willis on the architectural history of Rochester Cathedral, the finest of our Norman structures, was read on Friday. The museum of the Institute, swollen as it is by numerous contributions from the local and other societies, contains, perhaps, the finest collection of ancient and mediæval subjects ever brought together. Among the more valuable of the contributions are the beautiful ornaments excavated by Bryan Faussett in East Kent, together with a vast collection of Saxon antiquities, discovered from time to time in Kent, including the fibula found at Sarre. The museum has been arranged with great care and taste by Mr. Albert Way, one of the hon. secretaries of the Institute; and the study of its numerous contents will amply repay the general no less than the archaeological visitor.

## SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY.

THE *Monatsbericht* of the Berlin Academy contains a communication by M. Hermann de Schlagintweit on the temperature and the isothermal lines of India, based upon the material collected by himself during his scientific explorations of that country which have so largely benefited science. We direct our remarks to the characteristics of the different *systems of isothermal lines*, in which, though reduced in the maps to a scale which is rather too small, the principal features at least are very distinctly shown. In these maps five groups are formed, one for the mean of the year, the others for the four parts corresponding to our seasons; particularly interesting it is to see how much the climatological character *varies* for the different seasons, and on so large a surface, whilst in most other parts of our globe the numeric values vary perhaps equally much, but the general form of the causes is but little affected. The *mean of the year* shows, by the form of the corresponding isothermal lines, a decided influence of the territory of the peninsula; in the central and southern parts of India isolated spaces of maxima of heat appear, and even in the more northern parts the isothermal lines rise five degrees towards the north, where they cross the central axis of India. In the *cool season*, too, the land, when compared with the surrounding seas, manifests itself as somewhat increasing the temperature; but the deviations from the straight line are very small. The decrease of temperature from south to north is the most rapid in this season. The *hot season*, again, shows a most marked coincidence of the type of isothermal lines with the contours of the land; but it is an unexpected result that the very maxima of temperatures are not to be met with in this part of the year. If we compare the regions of the Punjab with those of Central and Northern India, we find that, in the period corresponding to our *summer*—a period which in India, where it is the *rainy season*, is remarkably cool—the absolute maxima of temperature are actually found in the Punjab. In the part of the year corresponding to our *autumn*, this character rapidly disappears, and at the same time the decrease of temperature in a south-northerly direction has become the smallest of all the year. As a part of the labours connected with this work, we must particularly mention the care which had been taken to reduce all the observations to *sure daily means*; whilst in previous publications on Indian meteorology but too often the plain mean of any number of observations during daytime has been established for this value. It will be particularly welcome to all who are interested in Indian meteorology to hear that a detailed memoir illustrated by careful maps on a larger scale, showing more minutely the connexion of the forms of land with the climatological modifications, has been presented by the author to the Royal Society, and will appear in the next volume of the society's "Transactions." The fourth volume of M. Hermann de Schlagintweit's great work, "Results of a Scientific Mission to India and High Asia," which will contain, in addition, the laws of temperature and the other parts of meteorology, may be expected to appear in about a year.

A STURGEON about three feet long is now to be seen disporting in a tank in the Zoological Gardens; this unique opportunity of studying the habits of the "royal fish" should not be lost. Mr. Frank Buckland thus describes it in a letter to the *Times*:—"He looks not unlike a large jack in the water, but he swims in a very different way,

the lower half of his body swaying about in the water with an almost serpentine action, implying swiftness in swimming and great power to hold his own in a rapid stream. As he swims along the bottom of the water he keeps his head close to the ground, and every now and then shoots out his great toothless telescopic mouth as if in search for food. The beard-like feelers underneath his pig-shaped nose are also perpetually at work, and no doubt they are of great use to him when groping his way among the rocks several fathoms under water. Mr. Bartlett and myself have had a consultation as to what to give him to eat, for he will not touch earth-worms or small fish, and we have agreed to try him with water-shells of various kinds: for, having lately dissected the stomachs of several sturgeons, especially one, the property of Mr. Heck of Portman-street, which was nine feet two inches long, weighed nearly four cwt., and contained no less than three large buckets full of caviare or roe, I have found the contents of the stomachs of sturgeons to be principally comminuted portions of shells, and occasionally sand-worms. The live sturgeon is in a pond in front of the new antelope-house, where he seems quite at home; he frequently comes into the shoal-water of the margin of the pond, takes a great gulp of air, and retires again into the deep, while he keeps his little pig-like eye fixed with suspicion on the spectator."

HOWEVER various are the uses to which photography is applied, every day develops some new direction in which it may be turned to account. It is now proposed that, in our local and national museums, the negative plates of the likenesses of distinguished individuals should be systematically preserved. Mr. MacLachlan of Manchester proposes that such plates should be "placed in a museum for safe keeping, properly authenticated, attested, and registered by the mayor or other authority of the place where they were taken; and, to provide against accidents, he suggests that, in every instance, three plates of the same individual should be secured, which can easily be done, as the original one can be always reproduced at pleasure." He proposes the "securing three plates, in order that one may be kept within the institution, and the other two be lent at the discretion of the authorities in charge—for instance, to any author of eminence for book-illustration; and by that means the memories and images of those who have been great and passed away would be transmitted faithfully to all posterity. In almost every instance there would be several portraits of the same individual in different museums in the country, affording a still greater security for their permanent preservation. All local celebrities might be taken in their own towns and deposited in the museums of their respective localities; and, should a time arrive when their genius became acknowledged by the world, then they might claim a shrine in our great national museum." It is true that positive prints on paper cannot in the present state of the art be depended upon as lasting records; but every photographer knows that the negative plates are as enduring as the material (glass) upon which they are taken. We should thus have a marvellously interesting and valuable collection of memorials of the departed great ones of the earth. What would we not now give for such a faithful memorial of the features of Shakespeare! The space required for the careful deposit of such negatives, duly numbered and registered, is very small: a cubic foot would contain several hundred. They pack close; and many thousands can be placed, readily accessible for reference, in cases of small cubical contents. The cost of obtaining such negatives would be very small, as, in many instances, photographers would only be too ready to deposit the negatives for the privilege of sittings from individuals, from the sale of whose photographs they would derive a profit. Hereafter, no doubt, the art of burning in the photograph on glass, after the manner of enamel-painting, will be brought to perfection. Already, very beautiful specimens have been produced, and were shown in the International Exhibition last year. Thus, indeed, we should then possess a national portrait-gallery of the worthies of the nation.

A NEW method of healing epilepsy and some other kindred diseases, "founded on the discovery of the vaso-motor functions of the sympathetic nerve," is the subject of a pamphlet by Dr. John Chapman; and we learn that the extremely simple means of cure which he suggests—mere cold and heat applied in various ways and during different lengths of time, separately, alternately, or combined—are about to be practically tried in one of the London Hospitals—a matter of congratulation, seeing that the *Medical Times* informs us that

"next to the disease itself nothing can be more conducive to human unhappiness than the treatment" at present in vogue, which "is one which may be called tentative therapeutics, experimental medication, philosophical empiricism, or blind drugging, as you please." M. Brown-Séquard's theory of epilepsy is that the fit is preceded by irritation of those branches of the sympathetic nerve which supply the head, giving rise to palor and contraction of the cerebral blood-vessels, and temporary deprivation of arterial blood to the brain, which, it is assumed, deprives that organ of its functions. Hence it becomes necessary to exert a curative influence over "the sympathetic nervous system to the extent of the distribution of its vaso-motor nerves through the paralyzed limb." Now, in exciting these vaso-motor nerves, the arteries are made to contract, while by diminishing their influence the arteries dilate; and on this interesting discovery, which is due to Claude Bernard, Dr. Chapman's new treatment depends.

## THE WHITE NILE EXPEDITION.

THEODOR VON HEUGLIN'S Journey from the Rek Lake to Bongo, in the Dor Country—March 23rd to May 10th, 1863.—Death of Dr. STEUDNER at Wau, 10th of April, 1863.

WE hasten to lay before our readers the following report by Dr. Petermann, which embodies the latest advices from the Dutch Ladies' White Nile expedition, and an account of the death of one of its two leaders:—

"We have to mourn another victim of African exploration, one of the most deserving members of the German expedition to Inner Africa—Dr. H. Steudner is no more. For two full years (he first entered Africa on the 5th of March, 1861) he had withstood the dangers of that deadly climate—he sustained that notorious boiling-heat of the summer of 1861 in the Red Sea, at Massua, and at the Dahlak-archipelago, in the following winter, he endured the snow-storms of the Abyssinian highlands; in summer of 1862 he passed unscathed the fever-stricken districts of East Sudan and Chartum, the dangerous miasmas of the White Nile, and the Bahr el Gazal; and, at last, when he approached a really healthier part of Central Africa, a bilious fever cut him off in the flower of his years. He died at the early age of thirty-one, at Wau, a Dshur village, a few miles E. of the Bahr el Dshur, about eighteen German miles W.S.W. of the Rek Lake, in 8° 20' N. lat., and 25° 45' E. long. By the last post but one, which arrived in Germany at the beginning of July, he had sent in voluminous and most important reports to Dr. Barth, which will shortly be published in the *Zeitschrift für Erdkunde*. . . . I shall take a future opportunity of communicating some portions of the notes of the deceased; meanwhile I must once more return to his last journey, and to the circumstances of his death.

"The last letters had brought news from Mr. von Heuglin and Dr. Steudner up to the 20th of March, when they were still at the Rek Lake. The beasts of burden which they had taken with them not sufficing for the carrying of their luggage westward, the two travellers decided upon hurrying in advance of the main body of the expedition towards the interior, with a portion of the luggage, to form a station between the mountains of Cosanga and the sea, to deposit the luggage there, to engage more porters, and to return with them to the principal station. They had started on the 23rd of March, had crossed—after many hardships and having both been severely smitten with fever—the river Dshur, 300 paces broad, on the 2nd of April, and had reached the same night the village of Wau, where they remained—the chance of engaging porters, of whom they wanted about 150, looking favourable.

"But, unfortunately, the influence of the climate began to tell upon them; the days were very hot, the nights cold and damp, the provisions partly consumed, partly spoilt—so that on the 4th of April half of the men were ill. Dr. Steudner had already experienced a few attacks of fever on the Island of Rek, where he had stayed for three weeks; these returned—but always in a mild degree—several times during the journey, and during the first days of the sojourn at Wau. On the 6th of April, in the afternoon, he took some medicine, and during the night, between the 7th to the 8th, he seemed, although very weak, yet in a fair way of recovery; on the evening of the following day he conversed with Heuglin till about midnight. In order to procure some addition to the slender rations of the men, the latter went out hunting early on the 9th of April, while Steudner seemed to enjoy a calm

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sleep; on his return at noon he still found him sleeping, breathing quietly, with his pulse rather weak than feverish, but his face of an extraordinary yellow colour. This state lasted the whole day, the following night, and the forenoon of the 10th of April, without his speaking one word; he breathed without difficulty and without any signs of pains, and he expired quietly, almost imperceptibly, at one o'clock.

"We dug his last place of rest," his companion writes, "that same evening under a clump of trees not far from the river; and we have dug as deeply as possible for fear of the flood. I had the body sewn up in a large Abyssinian shawl; and at the bottom of the grave I made a still deeper excavation, filled it with leaves, carefully covered it after the burial with wood and bark, and had these again covered with leaves and earth. Thus, unfortunately, another restless wanderer and investigator has found an untimely end in Africa without reaping the fruits of his activity! As for myself, I lose in Steudner a true and faithful companion, who has shared many a sad hour with me, who has watched and nursed me many a night at my bedside!"

"Peace to his ashes!"

"Not before the 17th of April was Heuglin able to leave mournful Wau and the land of the Dshur, in order to go to Bongo into the land of the Dor, which he first entered at the Bahr Fertit. In Bongo he succeeded in getting more porters; so that he was able to start on his journey back to the Rek Lake on the 24th of April. Thence the luggage which had been left was carried on the 8th of May by 120 porters into the interior—first to Bongo and to the Cosanga river, a journey of about ten days, for which the porters received no less than £150. On the 10th of May, the last date of the accounts received, the main body of the expedition, Heuglin and the three ladies at the head, was about to start for the interior. May good fortune accompany them in this most important journey!"

"The report (with map), now sent in by Mr. von Heuglin, enriches our knowledge of Inner Africa from the Rek Lake by two degrees to the west. About a German mile to the west of the Rek Lake the terrible swamps of the Bahr El Gazal cease, and the wooded plain, with its wonderful profusion of flowers and its colossal trees, now already in most beautiful verdure (for the first heavy rains, the forerunners of the rainy season, have caused an extraordinarily sudden growth), begins. The whole country promised much that was new, both with regard to flora and fauna, both being widely different from those of the Bahr El Abiat. In his remotest stations Heuglin found a tree which grows in the Bogos-countries and in Abyssinia, and which is there called Ankoï, with yellow fruits like plums, of an agreeable taste—a sign, at least, that the terrain of the great Nile-basin rises in these regions, and begins to approach to the water-shed between the Indian and Atlantic Ocean. With respect to the fauna, Heuglin has acquired a good deal which is new; and the whole country, he reports, is rich in game, more especially giraffes, antelopes, &c.

"This territory is chiefly inhabited by two negro tribes, the Dshur to the east, and the Dor to the west. The language of the Dor is quite different from that of the Denka and Shilluk, as also from that of Dar Fertit; the greater part of the Dor take out their four lower middle cutting-teeth—not like the Fertit, who grind their cutting-teeth to a point. They are handsome, robust people, who are more dressed than the Dshur, and carry bows and arrows, which they use very adroitly. The women have their upper lip perforated in most cases, and a brass wire plaited through it; others carry in the middle of the lower lip sharp stones and wooden cylinders from an inch to an inch and a half broad; but they all like to adorn themselves with iron body-, arm-, and foot-rings, and with immense ivory bracelets, which are placed on the upper part of the arm. Dor and Dshur do not, like the Arabs, eat with their hands, but use large conchylia as spoons. Neither tribe has salt; and they use the urine of cows instead, by mixing it with their milk and butter.

"The Homr-Arabs from the northern latitudes have recently, in their hunting expeditions, come down as far as the Dor, and have killed an extraordinary number of elephants near the Dshur. These Homr and some Bakara tribes are about the boldest and most excellent elephant-hunters in the world. They attack these animals either on foot or on horseback, and generally only a small number of hunters are engaged in the combat. If they have found one of these forest-destroyers, two hunters, keeping him to windward, endeavour to approach it with long and broad sharp-edged

lances within a few paces' distance. In order to facilitate this, a third tries to engage the elephant's attention in another direction. When the hunters are near enough to the animal, they run the lance through it from behind. If the first thrust is well managed, the elephant dies instantly; if not, the second hunter tries to hit better. 'I call this a real way of hunting,' says Heuglin, 'as compared with that of our guns, which carry far and yet do not kill on the spot. But I cannot as yet confess to any great liking for elephant-game. I do not know, of course, the advantages of the native mode of preparing it; but, although my cook hammers it, cudgels it, boils and roasts it for six hours, it is still too dry and tough for my teeth; the fat, also, is generally coarse, and not of the finest aroma. The meat is more eatable if it has been dried for a long time, then pounded in a mortar, and boiled with dry bamion (*hibiscus*). So, also, it requires a hard palate to find the much-vaunted Zeekuh-Speek (the Nile-horse) of the colonists more than eatable. The giraffe's is of all wild game the only flesh which seems to me suitable for a European: it is something like venison.'

"The natives are kindly-disposed people. They keep cattle, and have many forges and important iron-manufactories. But the slave-merchants undermine the welfare also of these parts; they have almost divided the country amongst themselves, and gather from their involuntary subjects very considerable contributions in provisions, which, moreover, they do not allow to be sold to travellers. Three of these wretched autocrats Heuglin mentions—one of them keeps no less than 300 soldiers, who, of course, only live by pillage, and are paid in slaves.

"That the advance of the expedition through the territories in the hands of these slave-traders is not exactly facilitated, is obvious. Porters are, even for large sums, not easily got—the natives avoiding all intercourse with strangers as much as possible. The negroes in the Cosanga territory had, for fear of these Chartum merchants, not even tilled their soil this year. But I see with great pleasure, in the blue-books just published, in London that England, the only European state which still does something for the general objects of humanity, and has also the power of doing so, has taken energetic steps to put a stop to this Turkish nuisance in the Upper Nile-regions. The English Consul Petherick—who, I think, will be of the greatest use in this matter—arrived, coming from Gondokoro, where he had met Speke, to the great joy of the expedition, at the Rek Lake on the 4th of May. He has had to cope with the greatest difficulties and dangers, has suffered very much, and lost his luggage, worth about £3000. Notwithstanding this, he has contrived to assist the expedition, and has made the ladies a present of an India-rubber boat, which, in some circumstances, will be of great use. Two men easily carry the whole apparatus, which can contain four to six people, with some luggage. It is easily used, is pretty steady, and draws only a few inches in the water.

"Captain Speke, the discoverer of the Nile sources, takes, likewise, a lively interest in the expedition, more especially in Heuglin's advance. He wrote to me only a few days ago:—'When I arrived at Chartum I heard that Mr. von Heuglin was at the Bahr El Gazal with the Turkish ladies; and, since I believed this country to be too uninteresting and dangerous for ladies, I advised them to return, but to send Mr. von Heuglin into the interior, towards the south-west, into the Congo territory, in order that he might follow up this river to its mouth, and thus reach the Atlantic Ocean. I also sent some plans and hints towards the execution of this proposal, which I hope will be followed. But I fear that the young lady who stands at the head of the expedition will not rest until she herself has done something noteworthy.'

## ART.

### MR. MACLISE'S FRESCO OF THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

MR. MACLISE has painted the finest battle-picture that has been produced in England. It will compare, and, we believe, to its advantage, with any contemporary pictures of the same class across the Channel. The military character of the French people has been thoroughly well represented, if it has not been to a great extent kept alive, by the genius of the great artists who have illustrated the campaigns of the Republic and of the Empire. The triumphs of British arms have not inspired British painters; and we can hardly call to mind an instance of a successful attempt to

represent the more important actions and events recorded in the military annals of the country. The naval service, which has always been more popular in this country, has also met with more recognition from the profession, which in France delights to perpetuate the remembrance of the deeds of the army. Louthenbourg, Turner, and Stanfield have painted the actions of the Nile and Trafalgar, as well as many minor engagements; and in Greenwich Hospital we have a nucleus of what may at some future time become a national collection of naval pictures. But our military battles have neither been so well represented nor so well cared for. West painted "The Death of Wolfe on the Heights of Quebec" in rather a sentimental fashion, although he deserves much credit for his refusal to countenance the conventionalism of the day, which decreed that on the stage Hamlet should appear in a wig and knee-breeches, and that in a picture which affected to be historical an English general officer should be represented in a Roman uniform. During the French war we had nothing but bad coloured engravings of the most celebrated battles in the Peninsula; and, while we have had numberless pictures and prints of Waterloo, it has been a standing reproach to us that the only really valuable art-records of the great battle have been given to us by French artists.

From this reproach we are now happily delivered; and Mr. MacLise, who is himself a countryman of the great Duke, has painted for the nation a picture in every way worthy of the subject. It is executed in fresco, upon one of the compartments in the Royal Gallery leading to the House of Lords. It is forty feet in length, and some twelve or fourteen feet high. The material which has been adopted is eminently adapted for pictures of these dimensions. Every part of it can be well seen, and the surface admits of no reflections nor glare. Although, from its great size, we are naturally disposed to look at the various groups in detail, as we do in Horace Vernet's capture of the Smala by Abd-el-Kader, yet we are quite able to take in the whole subject; and, as a whole, we should say it has more unity than the French picture. Near the centre of the composition is the *auberge* of La Belle Alliance; and the time chosen for representation is that supreme moment of victory when Wellington and Blücher meet in front of its smoking walls. The Duke is calm, yet conscious of all that has been accomplished, and mindful of what remains to be done. Blücher looks more like the man of action; but his countenance and demeanour are rash rather than self-reliant. The painter's reading of the characters of the commanders is clearly expressed. The staff of each general is grouped on either side. The few Life-Guardsmen and Blues who form the escort of the Duke appear to be saluting the Prussian commander, who may be supposed to have just ridden up to congratulate his ally and to concert with him the necessary means for converting the French retreat into a rout. Either wing of the composition is occupied by dead and wounded men and horses; and, upon the crest of the hill in the distance, the English cavalry are pursuing the flying French artillery, connecting, as it were, the main incident of the picture with the great and still unfinished work of the day.

One of the most touching incidents depicted by Mr. MacLise is the death of the young and gallant Howard, who was struck down at the end of the day. A Highlander and two foot-soldiers carry him to the rear; but the approach of death is plainly visible on his young and beautiful countenance, which extorts compassion and notice even in the midst of the horrors attendant upon dying and dead men. The painter has made use of this incident artistically, by way of contrast, and by means of it has, so to speak, humanized all this part of his picture. A sister of mercy and a *vivandière* are also skilfully introduced on this side of the picture, to alleviate the pain which Mr. MacLise has rightly expressed with a terrible truthfulness, and to reconcile the spectator to the sight of the lesson on the horrors of war which it has been part of his duty to teach. On the other side of the picture a captured gun stands among the bodies of those who have died for its capture or in its defence. The body of a French artillery officer lies across it, and a cuirassier lies dead upon the ground in front of it. Shattered and indented by shot, the blind weapon of destruction is divested of all its pomp and circumstance; and we are made to understand clearly what misery is concealed by the few lines that tell of the capture of the enemy's guns. Near this is a Highland piper, who has been wounded in the arm, to which a tourniquet has been applied, while the surgeon has turned to

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attend to a colour-sergeant who has been shot in the leg, and whose countenance is finely expressive of patience under pain while the surgeon is adjusting his bandages. The agony of wounded men, the cheers of the dying, who, still drunk with the excitement of battle, raise themselves as they recognise their commanders, the groans of horses, and the roar of the distant battle, are all drowned by the wind-instruments of the Prussian band, which forms part of Blucher's escort. Here is now the party of action. The Prussian general grasps the hand of the Duke, and in another moment he will be away with his staff, fully prepared to improve the victory which has already been effectively won. But that moment even Mr. Maclise could not paint. We could only then realize the truth of the Duke's own words, that "the most terrible event next to a defeat is a victory."

The artistic merit of this fresco is very great. Mr. Maclise has always been esteemed as a composer and as a draughtsman; but his compositions have been open to the charge of indistinct combination, and his drawing has been called exaggerated in expression. In this great battle-picture a certain confusion in the composition has its advantages; and, as the main groups are sufficiently distinct, and all are well subservient to the main incident, there is no exception to be taken to it on this ground. The drawing of men and horses is magnificent. The men sit their horses like soldiers; the horses are full of character and action. We know of nothing finer than the white horse of Sir Hussey Vivian, who is snuffing at the face of the dead carabineer; and almost equally good is the Duke's chestnut charger, Copenhagen, who stands like a thoroughly well-bred animal, in contrast to the fiery steed of Blucher, which paws the ground among the slain. The dying and dead horse on the left of the composition, with the body of a French cuirassier and that of a trumpeter of the Life Guards lying athwart and in front of them, deserve to be studied as an instance of the painter's power: the foreshortening in this part of the picture being drawn with an ease that shows us how completely Mr. Maclise is the master of this most difficult part of his art.

If there be a wrong kind of confusion in the picture, we would be inclined to say it is caused by the chiaroscuro. We could almost have wished that there could have been more repose in the shadowed parts, and a little more breadth in the lights. The picture would have gained in power, as a whole, and we think the parts of which it is composed would have lost nothing in expression. Mr. Maclise, however, deserves well our best recognition. Such a battle-picture has never yet been painted by an Englishman; and the impression of a great and carefully studied work is so strongly printed upon the mind of the spectator, that, after contemplating it, he feels disposed, as after witnessing a fine tragedy, to walk away, in no mood to look at the further entertainment that awaits him in his passage through the lobbies.

## PAINTINGS BY M. LEGROS.

A FRENCH painter upon whom the eyes of the discerning are already fixed, and who is almost certain to take one of the very highest seats in his profession in due course of time, is at present in London—M. Legros. Some of our readers may perhaps remember in the Parisian Salon of 1861 (not to speak of the works which he exhibited in the current year) a large picture by M. Legros, named "Ex Voto"—a family met round the grave of some loved one, perhaps on the first anniversary of the death. For our own part, we can say that the profundity of feeling, portrait-like solidity of truth, and breadth of art-power, in this picture riveted our attention and stamped themselves on our memory beyond any other work of the year. We have had the privilege of seeing at the house of the eminent American painter and etcher Mr. Whistler four works of smaller size recently produced by M. Legros, whose brief sojourn in London is now drawing towards a close. There is scarcely a painter of the advancing generation upon whose work the character of greatness is so distinctly stamped. Some eyes, especially British eyes, will not sympathize with a certain slightness of handling, and indifference to the realization of detail, which accompany the breadth of M. Legros's execution; but the remarkable unity of impression and of power in the works, the inventive completeness of them, in which the conception and the execution coalesce (so to speak) into that complex consummation, the thorough work of art—these are so vividly apparent that few critics, we should hope, would care to weigh mere *pros* and *cons* of method when they have before them a result of such lofty and intransmissible excellence.

The least important in subject of the four pictures is a landscape—a reminiscence which might well be a fact. It is early twilight, with the corners of a building or two to be seen, and the hind-quarters of two motionless horses; all the earth gravely quiet and darkling; the sky marbled with streaks of deeper blue upon a mysteriously-hued ground-colour, which changes from green into tinges of yellow and of azure as one looks at it. Sluggish water, shallow and ditch-like, lags along the foreground. The qualities which we have specified as distinctive of M. Legros, make this an extremely fine work. The second painting is named "Le Lutrin" [the chantry]; or, "La Messe des Morts." The name explains the general subject. Among four or five other figures, the chaunting priest holds an unlit taper for the departed souls. In the sky, seen through the open window, dingy blue drifts across obscure and rainy yellow, with a tempestuous glare in it. The feeling of the whole group and the tone of colour are wonderfully fine; the execution sketchy, yet so harmonized by the pervading power of the work that one scarcely minds it. The third picture, somewhat larger, and more equable in its unlaboured breadth of handling, represents St. Francis, seated on a bank outside his convent, his spade lying by him, improving a text to an old friar, who kneels, leaning his weight upon his pick-axe. This is a thoroughly manly work, with no pietistic affectations, yet strong in its devout impression as well as in that individual character in the personages upon which devoutness can be built. The perfect simplicity of the whole is one of its most potent means of influencing the spectator. The fourth picture we regard as still more complete and admirable than any of the others. It is named "Le Manège," and shows three Franciscan friars engaged in drawing water from a well, in working which a bony old white horse is performing his round. The pure tone of this picture, the pale quiet morning light on the grass, and the pallid grey of the sky lifting as the sun mounts, are simply perfection; the figures and composition most homely, most true, most artist-like, and beyond praise. This beautiful masterpiece is not yet entirely finished.

We feel a satisfaction in paying this small tribute of respect and sympathy to a foreign painter, as yet young and not widely known, whose future fame is as little dubious as any artist's can be.

W. M. R.

## ART NOTES.

MR. GRAVES, the print-publisher, with respect to the purchase of Mr. Frith's "Railway Station," says, "I paid for the picture and list of subscribers £16,300. I am to refund what was paid to the engraver, Mr. Francis Holl, and complete up his payments to the full amount of his contract—namely, 2000 guineas." The sum which this picture, the copyright, and the plate will have cost Mr. Graves will therefore be £18,400.

MR. CHURCH's picture of Icebergs is now being chromo-lithographed by Messrs. Day and Son.

It is intended to hold an exhibition of stained glass at the South Kensington Museum next spring.

MR. GATLEY, a rising sculptor, whose bas-reliefs of animals were much admired, died at Rome on the 28th of June.

MR. EDWARD LEAR, who is one of the few English landscape-painters that have thoroughly studied and successfully painted the scenery of the Mediterranean, is now in London. Mr. Lear visits us but seldom, and at long intervals. Well known as his works are, and highly appreciated by artists and a small section of the public, he is, perhaps, appreciated by the public at large more for the cleverly composed and illustrated nursery rhymes which, thrown off in a moment of diversion, have become the delight of the mothers and children of England. Among the pictures which may now be seen in his studio are "The Cedars of Lebanon," a very fine view of Corfu, Masada on the Dead Sea, Beirut, and Turin. There is also a small collection of water-colour drawings of the most beautiful scenes in the Seven Islands and in Albania. We hear that it is possible that our knowledge of the scenery of these the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean may be increased by the publication of copies of some of the sketches from the very rich collection contained in Mr. Lear's portfolio.

MR. W. CAVE THOMAS has been commissioned by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education to execute a design for a full length figure of Albert Dürer for one of the new courts of the South Kensington Museum, to be executed in mosaic by the students of the Female Schools of Art.

## MUSIC.

### THE OPERAS:—MDLLE. LUCCA IN "THE HUGUENOTS."

THE musical concert-season has come to a close with its usual odd abruptness. Nobody is in town. "Nobody" in the last century meant, according to Henry Fielding's fashionable glossary, "everybody in England except about 1500 people." The "nobody" of our concert-givers means something of the same kind. Three weeks ago the concert-rooms were thronged several times a-day by melomaniac crowds. Now, as there are only some two and a half millions left in the deserted city, the busy competitors for our favours cease on a sudden their invitations, and the fashionable halls close their doors. Partly on this account, perhaps, the last nights of the two opera-houses are as successful as the lessees could wish, besides being as interesting as the public could desire. Mr. Mapleson is giving in his "cheap" season the best works he can produce: "Faust," "Oberon," "Figaro," and the "Huguenots;" while the dozen last performances at Covent Garden have not only shown Mdle. Patti in two new characters, but have given London a new singer of the highest rank. This evening, the last of the season, the most brilliant and versatile of sopranis plays the "Daughter of the Regiment" for the second time. On Monday Mdle. Pauline Lucca made her third appearance as *Valentine*. This young, very young, lady, has now completely satisfied the most difficult of European audiences that she is a great artist. She is already—at the age, as it is said, of eighteen—far advanced towards completeness; a similar progress ought to make her in a few years a dramatic singer of the highest order. The part of *Valentine* is a very singular one. In no other opera known to us is the leading soprano part habitually performed without a single solo. This illustrates the freedom with which the greatest of dramatic opera-writers has discarded the old formal rules of opera-structure. Mdle. Lucca, however, sings the soliloquy "In preda al duol," which precedes the conspiracy scene, and which her predecessors have generally omitted. The effect she produces in this expressive romance quite justifies her adhering to the text. But her powers are displayed best, of course, in the two great duets. Overpoweringly grand as is the scene with her lover, it is hard to say that the duet in the chapel-scene with the old Huguenot is a whit less beautiful. This scene, like the other, is a little drama in itself. The solemn phrase with which the part of *Valentine* opens, with its strange orchestration, is one of the most profoundly impressive bits of music ever imagined. The two dominant phrases of accompaniment, one a scrap of hymn-like melody, sung by the stringed instruments, the other a quaint passage in octaves, jerked out by the bassoons, are both intensely dramatic. Mdle. Lucca does her part in this scene nobly. Her voice is of a kind to suit the music well. It is strong and full, not remarkable for sweetness, but having a certain "sympathetic" quality which gives it great power of expression. In compass it is a soprano proper, with an ample range of higher tones, and a pleasant solidity and fulness in the lower notes. These excellent natural means Mdle. Lucca has cultivated to a degree remarkable in one so young, and very rare indeed with her countrywomen. Not within our recollection has there appeared a singer of German birth and training, as she is understood to be, who has so little of the faults and deficiencies which make so many splendid German voices nearly valueless for the higher purposes of music. The last really cultivated Cisalpine singer we can recollect was Mdle. Sontag. How many nobly endowed artists have we since heard—Jenny Ney and Mdle. Ceillag are instances—who have just missed reaching the highest place for want of that mere training which only, it seems, the Italian method can or could give. It has been fated, apparently, that no German singer should have the power of singing a phrase with simplicity and freedom. The national vice is to utter everything in an unquiet, fevered manner, exaggerating "expression" till it becomes expressionless by excess, thrusting "passion" into the plainest dialogue, and rendering the pathetic by incessant strain and spasm. Mdle. Lucca keeps clear, as yet, of these vices. Her style is firm and vigorous, but well-tempered; and she sings with that note-perfect freedom and confidence which places the listener completely at his ease. Meyerbeer's music, abounding as it is with pathos and fire, does not demand any consummate vocal finish. Her acquirements in this respect must be tested by her

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performance of Rossini or Mozart. As *Valentine*, she is, vocally all, and dramatically very nearly all that could be wished. Her acting, though full of earnestness and intelligence, is still, as might be expected in one so new to the boards, a little marred by stiffness of movement. In the great duet with *Raoul*, for instance, she lacks spontaneity, and is rather angular in her postures; but these are defects which time is certain to cure. The genuine artist's life is one of growth; and gifts so splendid as this young girl's ought to enable her to rub off faults which none but the very greatest geniuses can conquer without care and study. Her singing and acting with Signor Mario in this culminating scene of the opera roused the house to enthusiasm, expressed by storms of applause and a double recall of both artists. It is long since we have seen even this music make so great an effect on a commonly impassive audience. No wonder that M. Meyerbeer should pronounce Mdle. Lucca (so goes the rumour) to be now the most competent singer of his music. It would, of course, be unfair to compare the late performance of Madame Grisi with that of a singer in the full freshness of youthful vigour. Perhaps Sophie Cruvelli is the artist whom Mdle. Lucca most resembles. Of Signor Mario it is unnecessary to speak. All know what a *Raoul* he has been and what he now is. Even the remnants of such splendid powers can produce an astonishing effect. He is incapable of singing the duet septett (even transposed) without an effort so painful as to destroy the pleasure of the listener; but in the exquisitely pathetic music of the little trio in the last act, where old Marcel joins the hands of the lovers, his voice told with the most thrilling effect. The performance, in other respects, was as magnificent as usual. The singing of Madame Didiée and MM. Tagliafico and Formes in their habitual parts needs no remark. It should be said, however, that Mdle. Battu was good in the congenial florid music of *Marguerite*, and that M. Faure was as entirely good a *St. Bris* as could be conceived. His singing of the music is as thorough as his acting of the character is dignified and expressive. R. B. L.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

ETIENNE-JEAN DELECLUZE, one of the best-known of French writers on artistic and musical subjects, has lately died at Versailles. He contributed to the *Débats* for more than forty years.

MR. MELLON will begin his orchestral promenade concerts at Covent Garden on the 10th of this month (Monday week). The London musical year is now one long concert—these pleasant performances almost filling up the few weeks of interval "allowed for refreshment" in the latter part of the summer, between the closing of the operas and the opening of the choral societies' season. Every year that passes ought to fill Mr. Mellon's Promenade with better and better audiences, as the taste for "absolute" music in its greatest form grows and spreads. To Londoners who are delaying their run to the Alps or the seaside, these concerts are quite a blessing.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE series of opera-concerts was finally wound up by an additional performance on a larger scale than usual upon Wednesday last. A large part of the Covent Garden company appeared, to the satisfaction, no doubt, of such of the assemblage as could hear the music in the vast area of the great transept. This qualification, unfortunately, must always be added so long as the directors think it right to invite the public to pay for music which only a section of the payers can hear.

BRASS BANDS.—The prize at the annual competition of brass bands at the Crystal Palace has been adjudged this year to the Blandford band.

NOTES FROM PARIS.—Some talk has been occasioned by an incident which occurred at the Grand Opera during the rehearsal of Signor Verdi's "*Vêpres*." The *maestro* on one occasion thought he noticed that a part of the band was not doing justice to his work, and complained to M. Dietsch, the provisional conductor. The answer of the latter not being satisfactory, Signor Verdi took his hat and left the place. In consequence of this, a letter from the Minister informed M. Dietsch that he was "at liberty to exercise the privilege of resigning," which he accordingly did. M. Hainl, conductor of the orchestra at Lyons, has been appointed in his place, and is said to be giving satisfaction to both band and public. Signor Verdi has not appeared since at the opera, and has left Paris.—The *début* of a new bass, M. Eugène Bataille, is

expected at the Opéra Comique.—M. Auber, wonderful octogenarian, is just finishing a new work for the opening of the coming season. It is called "*La Fiancée du Roi de Garbe*."—The "*Môise*" of Rossini, and "*Le Dieu et la Bayadère*" of Auber, are to be revived at the Grand Opera.—M. Berlioz's "*Trojans*" are expected with some anxiety at the Théâtre Lyrique.—Signor Rossini has been writing a grand Mass, with orchestra and chorus, but refuses, it is said, to allow it to be produced in public.—Richard Wagner, according to a paragraph in the newspapers, has been robbed of a valuable gold snuff-box, a gift received at St. Petersburg. The reporter adds, no doubt as a piece of wit, that the thieves left the scores of "*Tristram*" and the "*Niebelungen*" quite safe.—The band of an Austrian infantry regiment is said to have been engaged to give a series of performances at the Crystal Palace.

A COMBINATION of managers of German opera-houses is talked of, to be formed for the purpose of lowering the exorbitant demands of popular artists. Railways, steamboats, the increase in wealth of commercial and opera-loving cities, and the spread of a taste for music, are some of the causes why such vast sums are paid to performers of celebrity. It is not clear what a partial combination in one district of Europe can do to check the so-called evil.

## THE DRAMA.

### MR. WALTER MONTGOMERY'S "HAMLET."

TO fail in the performance of the largest and most subtle character in the grand round of Shakespeare's creations, is an almost inevitable experience for the actor who attempts the triumph. It is nothing to Mr. Walter Montgomery's intellectual, or even, as we take it, to his professional discredit, that he has not succeeded where many consummate actors have failed before him. Success, indeed, in this great undertaking cannot, under any reasonably conceivable circumstances, be more than relative. To impersonate *Hamlet* is, as Hazlitt says, like attempting to embody a shadow. "The character," he goes on to say, "is spun to the finest thread, yet never loses its continuity. It has the yielding flexibility of 'a wave of the sea.' It is made up of undulating lines, without a single sharp angle. There is no set purpose, no straining at a point. The observations are suggested by the passing scene—the gusts of passion come and go like the sounds of music borne on the wind. The interest depends not on the action, but on the thoughts—on 'that within which passeth show.'" In the very criticism from which these remarks are extracted, Hazlitt, in spite of his generally enthusiastic admiration for Edmund Kean, is able to afford only a qualified praise of that great actor's *Hamlet*. From Edmund Kean to M. Fechter, the verdict has been pretty much the same on all the actors who have tried the part. The charm of M. Fechter's *Hamlet* arose, in a great measure, out of the unwonted freshness of the French actor's rendering of the character. He brought to the task a mind, if uninformed, at the same time untrammelled by English stage tradition; he trusted, in the main, to his own resources; and, though he may have failed to satisfy the highest critical demands, it should be frankly admitted that he succeeded in a very remarkable degree. Whatever objections might be fairly raised to parts of his performance, it was unquestionably endowed with a vitality that was, at least, new to the modern stage: there was more of living impulsiveness in it, and, consequently, more of warm Shakespearean humanity than in that of any other actor at present or recently before the public. M. Fechter's *Hamlet* has been objected to on the ground of its over-vivacity; but we venture to think that this is not such an objection as Shakespeare himself would have raised. It is the besetting sin of all our later *Hamlets* that they are too much "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought." To quote Hazlitt again, "A pensive air of sadness should sit unwillingly upon his brow, but no appearance of fixed and sullen gloom. He is full of 'weakness and melancholy,' but there is no harshness in his nature. *Hamlet* should be the most amiable of misanthropes."

This pensive air sits gracefully enough upon the brow of Mr. Walter Montgomery's *Hamlet*; but we cannot say that it sits there "unwillingly." The lighter side of the character, which speaks out on every possible occasion during the earlier scenes of the play, is almost unrepresented—we might even say unsuggested—by Mr. Walter Mont-

gomery. At the same time he presents a very distinct, effective, and, we are glad to think, highly commendable interpretation of this most trying part in all the repertory of the stage. The fault in it is, that the art by which the character is elaborated is not sufficiently kept out of sight. As a whole, Mr. Walter Montgomery's performance is distinct and effective, in many respects far more so than either his *Othello* or his *Romeo*. He has studied the traditions of the part with very evident advantage, adopting some of Edmund Kean's best "business"—notably in the scene upon the platform, after the interview with the ghost, where he keeps his friends back with the point of his sword, while he follows the beckoning shade of his father. One of the best "points" in his performance is in his scene with *Ophelia*, while the *King* and *Polonius* are, as he knows, listening behind the arras: he puts the question, "Where is your father?" as a test of *Ophelia's* truthfulness, hanging eagerly upon her lips for the answer; and, when she innocently answers that he is at home, he turns from her with a passionate outburst of grief, as if his trust in her were for ever destroyed, and with its destruction a new grief had fallen heavily upon his heart. The rest of the scene was most effectively rendered; the wildly iterated "Get thee to a nunnery," followed by another passionate outburst of weeping, winning long applause.

The result of this new test of Mr. Walter Montgomery's powers ought, we think, to neutralize the adverse opinions that have been pronounced upon him on the strength of his previous performances. His *Hamlet*, though not a work of genius, is one of very great merit, and induces us to hope that our stage has found in him a sterling actor, who will do it good service in days to come. It is something to have won the right of being enrolled with Edmund Kean, Kemble, Macready, Charles Kean, and Fechter; and to this right we think he is fairly entitled;—he is one of three actors to whom alone the public can, at present, look for a *Hamlet* above mediocrity.

The *Ghost* of Mr. Henry Marston has long been recognised as a masterly rendering of an ungrateful and difficult part; and on Tuesday evening it had lost none of its wonted impressiveness. Miss Murray, as the *Queen*, though looking perplexingly young to be the mother of so big a son, played with much grace and discretion, especially in the trying closet-scene. The *Polonius* of Mr. Fitzjames, and the *King* of Mr. Charles Verner, were both rendered with intelligence; and, as the *First Gravedigger*, Mr. George Belmore gave one of those careful little studies of character which have brought him into the favourable notice which he now enjoys. The well-remembered scenery and appointments, first produced by Mr. Charles Kean, did good service in the mounting of the piece.

MADAME RISTORI'S CONCLUDING PERFORMANCE.—ON Monday evening Madame Ristori brought to a conclusion the extended series of her performances at Her Majesty's Theatre, the occasion being also that of her benefit. "*Maria Stuarda*" appears to be a play in which she takes delight, the performance of Monday being the third which she has given of this piece, either in whole or in part. The character is certainly one of her most charming impersonations; and the pleasure which it gives to her audience must be great indeed, to surmount, as it always does, the excessive tedium of Schiller's mercilessly slow-moving scenes. The exquisite fulness, finish, and natural ease with which Ristori throws herself into the part cannot be described. Her clutch of her rosary, as a visible guide and monitor, during her angry encounter with Elizabeth, is full of a meaning wholly the actress's. We have before spoken of the pathos and grandeur of the last scene, where the condemned Queen parts with her attendants, and finally disconnects herself from worldly things; the whole scene is conceived and executed in the spirit of the most exalted poetry. In parting with so great an artist, we can only express a hope that she may soon return.

A DRAMATIC READING from Shakespeare is to be given by Miss Edith Heraud, in conjunction with Herr Krueger, at the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, on Thursday evening next. The subjects selected for reading are intended to illustrate the passions of the human mind. Miss Edith Heraud has already won for herself a name as an actress. Of Herr Krueger's powers as a reader we are not yet able to speak.

A NEW comic opera, "*The Abbot of St. Gallen*," composed by F. H. Günther, is making the rounds of German theatres.

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